THAT SHE, WOOD, AND DOUGIE, WOULD BE HOME IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SO, IT WILL BE ANOTHER MERRY CHRISTMAS AT 489 "B" A S IT SURELY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE PAST.

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE BEFORE SHOVING OFF SO I'LL SAY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU !!!

LOVE,

Clay.

P.S. Almost forgot to wish you a happy ~~anniversary~~ anniversary and I honestly don't know how many years it will be, but, happy anniversary anyway.

P.P.S. Would you please put the enclosed note with Mary's Christmas present?

17 NOVEMBER 1945
8 PM

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

I RETURNED FROM ST JOHNS THIS AFTERNOON HAVING SPENT A PRETTY GOOD 48 HOUR LIBERTY THERE. THE SHIP CHARTERED A BUS FOR US TO TRAVEL IN, AND RESERVED US ROOMS IN THE U.S.O. THERE. IT WAS NICE TO GET AWAY FROM THE SHIP FOR THAT LONG A TIME. BUT AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK THEY SENT ANOTHER GROUP TO ST. JOHNS, AND THAT LEAVES THE SHIP RATHER SHORT HANDED, SO THERE WILL BE PLENTY TO DO IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING TROUBLE TYPING, BECAUSE THEY STUCK ME WITH THE 4 TO 8 GANGWAY WATCH, AND IT WAS PLENTY COLD OUT THERE TONIGHT.

THIS IS REALLY WRITTEN TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU, AND IT WILL HAVE TO BE A RATHER SHORT NOTE AS I'VE GOT TO HIT THE SACK. I HAVE THE 4 AM TO 8 AM IN THE MORNING ON THE GANGWAY, AND IF I'M GOING TO EVEN FEEL LIKE GETTING OUT OF MY "PAD" IN THE MORNING I'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP.

WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU IS IF YOU WOULD SEND MARY LOIS SOME FLOWERS FOR ME ON HER BIRTHDAY WHICH IS THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER. I LOOKED AROUND ST. JOHNS TO SEE IF I COULD SEE ANYTHING WORTH GETTING FOR HER, BUT NO SOAP. LAST YEAR DAD SENT HER A DOZEN ROSES FOR ME, SO IF YOU COULD SEND HER A MIXED BOQUET OR SOMETHING IT WOULD BE SWELL.

I HAVEN'T HAD A LETTER FROM YOU IN QUITE A WHILE, BUT I EXPECT ONE SOON. I HOPE YOUR FEELING BETTER, MOM.

NEXT WEEK I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE MY TEST FOR 2ND CLASS RADIOMAN.

SORRY FOR SO SHORT A LETTER TONIGHT, I'LL WRITE AGAIN SOON.

LOVE,
Clayt.

P.S. WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND THE ENCLOSED NOTE WITH THE FLOWERS?

12 NOVEMBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

I JUST CAME BACK FROM PLAYING A NIGHT BASKETBALL GAME, SO I'LL DROP YOU A SHORT NOTE BEFORE HITTING THE "PAD".

IN YESTERDAYS MAIL I RECEIVED YOUR CHRISTMAS PACKAGES, AND I'LL CONFESS, I OPENED ONE OF THOSE WHICH LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE CONTAINED "MARTHA WASHINGTON CANDY" AND IT DID CONTAIN CANDY AND PEPPERMINTS WHICH "WE" ARE NOW ENJOYING. THANKS A MILLION.....I FOUND AN EXTRA LOCKER TO STOW THE REST OF THEM IN. ALSO IN YESTERDAYS MAIL I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, DAD, WRITTEN ON ROUTE TO S.L.C. AND ENJOYED HEARING ABOUT YOUR TRIP AND DICK'S PLANS.

WELL, OUR "OLD MAN" FINALLY BROKE DOWN AND GAVE HIS BOYS A CHANCE TO GET SOME RELAXATION. LAST FRIDAY MORNING A GROUP OF US SET OUT, BY TRUCK, FOR THE HILLS OF NEWFOUNDLAND, CARRYING OUR BLANKETS AND ENOUGH PERSONAL GEAR FOR A TWO DAY STAY. WE WINDED UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND AFTER AN HOURS RIDE WE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION, A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. A LODGE(MESS HALL ANT FIREPLACE AND RADIO) AND SEVERAL CABINS SET ON THE EDGE OF A LARGE LAKE, ALL SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS COVERED WITH PINES....JUST LIKE OLD HOLIDAY PARK. IT SURE HIT THE SPOT WITH ME. WE ARRIVED PRETTY EARLY AND PLAYED A LITTLE FOOTBALL UNTIL TIME FOR NOON CHOW, AND THE OLD APPETITE WAS BACK AGAIN AND THE CHOW WAS SWELL. THAT AFTERNOON ANOTHER KID AND I WENT ROW BOATING ON THE LAKE, VISITING IT'S ISLANDS AND TRAVELING ON DOWN THRU A NARROW OPENING INTO ANOTHER LAKE. IT WAS A SWELL DAY AND I SLEPT GOOD THAT NIGHT...MY FIRST NIGHT AWAY FROM MY "EUGENE SACK" IN FIVE MONTHS. THE NEXT MORNING WE GOT UP BRIGHT AND EARLY AND AFTER A"SUPER" BREAKFAST WE TOOK A HIKE ...RETURNED FOR NOON CHOW....AND SPENT THE AFTERNOON LISTENING TO "THE MASSACRE", THE ARMY-NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL GAME. WHAT A FOOTBALL MACHINE THAT ARMY TEAM HAS. THAT EVENING AFTER DINNER A COUPLE OF GUYS AND I SET OUT TO FIND A NEARBY TOWN WE HAD HEARD OF, IT'S NAME, "PLACENTIA". AFTER WALKING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR WE GOT A "HITCH" FOR ABOUT FOUR MILES TO A ONE HORSE TOWN CALLED "SOUTHEAST", ONE STORE AND A POPULATION OF ABOUT 15, I THINK. THERE WAS ONE STORE THERE SO WE STOPPED IN TO FIND OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOWN WE WERE LOOKING FOR. THE LADY OWNER WAS VERY NICE AND INVITED US IN HER ADJOINING HOUSE FOR COFFEE AND A CHANCE TO WARM OURSELVES. WE TALKED TO HER HUSBAND AND SON, AND THEY ASKED ME WHERE I WAS FROM AND WHEN I TOLD THEM THE MAN SAID,"THAT'S WHERE THE LARGE ORGAN AND CHOIR IS...IN THE DOME SHAPED BUILDING. I'VE HEARD THEM BEFORE ON MY WIRELESS." AFTER THANKING THEM FOR THEIR KINDNESS WE HIT THE ROAD AGAIN, BUT IT WAS INTERESTING TO TALK WITH THEM, AND FIND THAT THEY HAD SO MUCH INTEREST IN WHAT WENT ON IN THE STATES. A THREE AND A HALF MILE WALK BROUGHT US TO THE TOWN WE WERELOOKING FOR, "PLACENTIA". NOT AS MUCH THERE AS WE HAD EXPECTED, AN ICE-CREAM PARLOR, A CHURCH, THREE OR FOUR STORES AND SEVERAL HOUSES. IT WAS A TYPICAL SATURDAY NIGHT IN A COUNTRY TOWN AND EVERYONE WAS IN THE PARLOR IN THEIR SUNDAY SUITS. WE DIDN'T STAY LONG AS IT WAS GETTING LATE....SO WE TOOK A DIFFERENT ROUTE HOME BY CROSSING WHAT THEY CALL "THE GUTT" IN A BOAT AND SOMEHOW IN THE WILDERNESS WE HAD A GUY LOCATE A CAB FOR US TO RIDE BACK IN. WE WERE PLENTY TIRED HAVING WALKED ALL OF EIGHT MILES SO WE SLEPT WELL AGAIN THAT NIGHT. SUNDAY MORNING EARLY WE RETURNED TO THE SHIP, AND

I LOST MY APPETITE AS SOON AS I HIT THE GANGWAY, BUT IT WAS A SWELL TWO DAY VACATION TO GET AWAY FROM THE SHIP AND IT'S ROUTINE.

NO MORE NEWS AS YET WHICH WOULD CHANGE OUR SCHEDULE, SO THE WAY THINGS LOOK NOW WE'LL SHOVE OFF FOR STATION #7 ABOUT THE SECOND OF DECEMBER, BACK TO ARGENTIA, AND THEN TO BOSTON.

THE U.S.S. EUGENE HAS A "CRACK" BASKETBALL TEAM.... WILLIAMS PLAYING 1ST STRING CENTER. WE'VE GOT SOME GOOD BOYS, AND WE'RE GOING TO PLAY THE ARGENTIA "BASE" TEAM SOON.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT ONE-THIRTY O'CLOCK OUR TIME (THERE IS AN EXTRA HALF HOUR TACKED ON TO THE TIME HERE IN ARGENTIA) I MANAGED TO TUNE IN THE TABERNACLE CHOIR ON ONE OF OUR RECEIVERS...HEARD THEM SING "AMERICA" AS A CLOSING NUMBER AND IT SOUNDED SWELL.

NOT MUCH ELSE FROM HERE FOR NOW SO I'LL CLOSE DOWN. "CHEERIO" UNTIL NEXT TIME. HOPE YOUR FEELING BETTER, MOM, AND THAT THINGS ARE GOING GOOD IN SALT LAKE.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. Sort of a hurried letter — pardon all the mistakes.

6 NOVEMBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

WE PULLED IN ARGENTIA YESTERDAY MORNING AND IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD TO RECEIVE TWO OF YOUR NEWSY LETTERS. AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD HAPPEN AND THEY DID, THAT'S WHY WE LEFT STATION EARLIER THAN WE REGULARLY WOULD HAVE, AND CAME HERE.

BEFORE I GO ON WITH MY NEW PLANS AND SCHEDULE I WANT TO THANK YOU, MOM, AND YOU TO DAD, FOR HELPING ME OUT...THAT IS, FOR BEING THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO SEND MARY THE BEAUTIFUL CORSAGE..... AND THE DELIVERY AND ALL....IT CAME AT A PERFECT TIME SHE SAID, AND SHE SURE APPRECIATED IT. YOU SEEM TO KNOW JUST THE RIGHT TIME TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT XXXXXXX, MOM,AND I SURE APPRECIATE IT, TOO.

THE TROUBLE FROM YOUR FALL SOUNDED PRETTY BAD, MOM, BUT I HOPE THAT YOU'VE TAKEN IT EASY, AND THAT IT IS FEELING BETTER BY NOW.

DAD IS WITH THE CAPTAIN (OR IS IT MAJOR) AND HIS FAMILY TONIGHT, ACCORDING TO HIS TRIP REPORT WHICH HE WROTE IN ONE OF HIS LETTERS. I IMAGINE HE WILL BE BACK IN S.L.C. BEFORE THIS LETTER REACHES HOME, THOUGH. WELL, I'LL TELL AS MUCH AS I KNOW AT THE PRESENT TIME ABOUT WHAT'S IN STORE FOR US. EVERYTHING WAS GOING RATHER SMOOTH AND ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE UNTIL HALLOWEEN NIGHT WHEN THINGS BEGAN TO POP. THAT NIGHT THE IONESPHERE WAS REALLY BUSY, THAT IS, THE BOYS IN THE RADIO SHACK WERE REALLY UP TO THEIR NECKS IN RADIO TRAFFIC. YOU SEE, "NWP", RADIO ARGENTIA, WAS SENDING ALL OF THE SHIPS THEIR NEW ORDERS AND ALSO MANY GENERAL MESSAGES TO ALL SHIPS AND WE HAD TO COPY ALL OF THEM, ASK FOR REPEATS OF PORTIONS WHICH WE DIDN'T GET, AND "RECEIPT" FOR ALL OF THEM. WELL, WHEN WE FINALLY GOT EVERYTHING STRAIGHT HERE'S THE WAY IT WENT. NOW DRAG OUT THAT MAP WHICH I JUST SENT YOU AND FOLLOW ME, IF YOU CAN. STATIONS 1, 5, 9, AND 11 WERE CANCELLED AS OF THAT DATE, AND AS WE WERE ON STATION 5 OUR ORDERS READ TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO ARGENTIA FOR FURTHER ORDERS. OTHER CHANGES THERE WERE: THE ADDITION OF TWO NEW STATIONS, NUMBERS 12 AND 13, TO BE LOCATED OF THE COAST OF BRAZIL. FIVE P-F'S WERE CHOSEN FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT AND THEY WERE TOLD TO REPORT TO BOSTON FOR FUELING, ETC., AND FROM THERE TO PROCEED TO TRINIDAD AND THEN TO SOUTH AMERICA....RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. I KNOW QUITE A FEW FELLOWS WHO ARE ON THOSE SHIPS CHOSEN FOR THAT DUTY, AND BY THE WAY I SORT OF WISH OUR SHIP HAD BEEN ONE OF THEM. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DOWN THERE FOR SIX MONTHS, BUT AT LEAST THEY WOULD BE GOING SOMEWHERE AND SEEING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.....DIFFERENT THAN ARGENTIA. BUT, NO SUCH LUCK, AND HERE ARE THE ORDERS WE RECEIVED ON OUR ARRIVAL YESTERDAY MORNING. WE ARE TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE FIRST PART OF DECEMBER, PROBABLY ABOUT THE THIRD, AT WHICH TIME WE WILL GO TO DO A PATROL ON STATION NUMBER 7. UPON BEING RELIEVED, ABOUT THE 29TH OF DECEMBER WE ARE TO PROCEED BACK TO.....YES, TO ARGENTIA FOR A PERIOD OF THAT "STANDBY DUTY" WE HAD BEFORE. THEN WE GET A

these patrols

BREAK....YES, WE HEAD FOR BOSTON. THAT SHOULD BE AROUND THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY, OR THE VERY END OF JANUARY. AND, BY HECK, IF I DON'T GET A LEAVE THEN, WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT. WE ARE SCHEDULED FOR STATION NUMBER 3 AFTER THAT. OUR CAPTAIN SAYS THAT WE'RE ASSIGNED ON THIS DUTY UNTIL THE 15TH OF JULY, AND THAT WAS A SURPRISE TO ME. I STILL THINK IT WILL BREAK UP A LITTLE SOONER THAN THAT. I HOPE SO. SO THERE'S THE STORY. STATION 7 SHOULDN'T BE SO BAD, I JUST HOPE IT ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE OUR LAST PATROL. I TOLD YOU HOW ROUGH IT WAS IN MY LAST LETTER. IT WAS LOUSY. ON OUR WAY BACK FROM THESE STATIONS WE USUALLY CLIP OFF ABOUT 15 TO 18 KNOTS, BUT NOT THIS TIME. WE STARTED OUT TRYING TO MAKE 15 KNOTS, AND WHILE THE ENGINES WERE TURNING OVER AT THAT SPEED, WE WERE TRAVELING AT ABOUT 8 OR 9. BOY, THOSE OLD WAVES WOULD POUND AGAINST THE SIDE, AND FLY OVER THE BRIDGE. A COUPLE OF TIMES IT GAVE US A BIT OF A SCARE WHEN WATER POURED IN THROUGH THE AIR VENTS. THE WAY IT WAS WE WERE FORCED TO CUT OUR ENGINE SPEED TO ABOUT 8 KNOTS, SO THAT'S WHY IT TOOK US SO LONG TO RETURN.

QUITE A FEW OF THE "HIGH-POINTERS" WERE TRANSFERRED TODAY, AND WILL BE CIVILIANS SOON. UP TO NOW THEY HAD BEEN PRETTY UNFAIR TO THESE GUYS. THEY HAVE ALL (THERE WERE 14 OF THEM) HAD THEIR REQUIRED POINTS FOR A LONG TIME, BUT WERE BEING HELD AS WHAT THEY CALL, "A MILITARY NECESSITY". THEY COULDN'T RUN THE SHIP WITHOUT THEM, AND THEIR REPLACEMENTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. BUT, THERE OFF NOW, AND THOSE GUYS WERE SURE "ALL SMILES" TODAY.....WHO WOULDN'T BE AFTER SPENDING 22 MONTHS ON THIS TUB. WE LOST ONE RADIOMAN, FIRST CLASS, AND HE WAS A FIRST CLASS GUY, TOO.

THANKS ALOT FOR THE MAGAZINES AND THE CLIPPINGS. BY NOW "ALL HANDS" HAVE READ THAT MAGAZINE ON "PRO-FOOTBALL". IT SEEMS THAT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SAY THE WORD AND MY WISH IS FULFILLED, THAT IS, THE CLIPPINGS AND ALL. THEY ARE REALLY SWELL, THANKS AGAIN.

TODAY, THIS FELLOW NAMED HOOD AND I PULLED A BIT OF A SNEAK AND SLIPPED OFF OF THE SHIP DURING WORKING HOURS (DON'T WORRY, DAD, ALL OF OUR RADIO WORK WAS FINISHED) FOR A LOCK AT THE GYMNASIUM, WHICH IS ON THE BASE HERE. WELL, WE COULDN'T RESIST THE SIGHT OF A BASKETBALL, SO WE BOUGHT A PAIR OF SHOES AND HAD A SWELL AFTERNOON RUNNING OUR LEGS OFF. BOY, I'M SURE NOT IN THE CONDITION I USED TO BE....IT REALLY TIRED ME ALL OUT AFTER JUST SITTING DOWN, WHICH IS ALL WE DO ABOARD THE EUGENE. I WISH WE COULD GO OVER THERE EVERY DAY, MAYBE THEY'LL WORK OUT SOME ARRANGEMENT SO THAT WE MAY GO OVER AT TIMES OTHER THAN AFTER WORKING HOURS. IT IS HONESTLY THE ONLY WORTHWHILE THING ON THE BASE. I'M PUTTING IN FOR A 48 HOUR "PASS", AS THEY CALL IT IN THE ARMY, SO THAT I MAY MAKE A TRIP TO ST. JOHN. GET AWAY FROM THIS SHIP FOR A WHILE.

WELL, DAD, I HOPE YOU HAD A SWELL TRIP, AND FOUND THE R.C.WILLIAMS' HAPPY AND HEALTHY. IT WILL SURE BE SWELL IF DICK CAN MAKE IT "MR. WILLIAMS" BY JANUARY. AND HOW ABOUT WOOD? IS HE EXPECTING TO BE HOME AND OUT BY CHRISTMAS TIME? THAT WOULD BE DARN NICE.

I RECEIVED MY FIRST LETTER FROM DICK BACKMAN YESTERDAY. WE HAVE HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE FINDING EACH OTHERS WHEREABOUTS SINCE WE SEPARATED THAT JUNE DAY IN ATLANTIC CITY. BUT, I MENTION THIS BECAUSE HE SAID IN HIS LETTER HOW MUCH HE LIKED YOU TWO, AND BY THE WAY MY PAL, EDDIE MILLER, HAS MENTIONED YOU IN HIS LETTERS. YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE THE POPULAR PEOPLE.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR TONIGHT, SO I'LL CLOSE DOWN SHOP. OH, DAD, IT WAS PRETTY SLY ABOUT THE "GARDENIA" ETC. IN YOUR LETTER, OR SHOULD I SAY THAT.

I HOPE DOUG GETS OFF THOSE "PRETTY WELL WORN BY NOW OLIVE DRABS" AND HITS THE HOME ROAD. AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE DRAFTING SET YOU MENTIONED?

SO, SO LONG FOR NOW, I'LL WRITE AGAIN SOON.

LOVE,

Cleayt.

TAKE IT EASY, MOM.

UNITED STATES NAVY

28 October 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

The fury finally broke and gave us some half-way decent weather today. Boy! it has been rough — too rough to eat, sleep, or anything. This may be caused by some of the storms they've been having around England. It better improve because up to now things have been pretty lousy. The cold weather you don't notice, cause you never go out on deck, but the sea never seems to rest.

I thought I'd like to get a note off to you and in the Mail Box in case we get a chance to pass mail. I doubt if we will, though.

Enclosed you will find a rough drawing of the Atlantic with approximate positions of our stations. And our schedule for the next couple of months is mapped out for there. When I left Argentia you'll remember I expected a change to take place — well, I still do. Something is bound to happen soon that will make a difference in our schedule. (I think)

UNITED STATES NAVY

From this map you can see where I've been since I came aboard the Eugene. From Philadelphia to Station 10, 10 to Charleston, Charleston to 11, 11 to Bermuda, Bermuda to 6, 6 to Argentia, Argentia to St. John and back, Argentia to Boston and back, and Argentia to 5 — and that's where I am now.

How are things going in Salt Lake? And hope you are feeling fine.

That's about all from here for now. Write you more when we hit port.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. The other night I was talking "on the key" with a friend of mine who is now on station 10. He's the kid I made liberty with when I was in Boston last June.

UNITED STATES NAVY

16 OCTOBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

JUST A SHORT NOTE TONIGHT TO LET YOU IN ON THE LATEST. OUR ORDERS HAVEN'T BEEN CHANGED YET, AND, WE'LL LEAVE TOMORROW. MY NEXT LETTER WILL COME FROM ICELAND, I IMAGINE. WE MAY RECEIVE A CHANGE OF ORDERS WHILE WE'RE OUT ON THIS STATION. I HOPE SO.

ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU BOUGHT, MOM. I DON'T WANT TO SEEM HARD TO PLEASE OR UN-APPRECIATIVE, BUT THE TEA-CUP AND SAUCER ISN'T EX-ACTLY WHAT I WOULD HAVE IN MIND. IT'S SWELL OF YOU TO GET THEM, AND I HOPE IT'S O.K. WITH YOU IF I ASK YOU TO EXCHANGE IT. MOM, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO GET HER, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING SORT OF SPORTY, NOT EXPENSIVE, THAT'S NOT MUCH OF AN IDEA, I GUESS.

WELL, THAT'S ABOUT ALL FOR TONIGHT. I HOPE YOUR FEELING FINE, AND EVERYTHINGS O.K. IN SALT LAKE.

LOVE, Clayt.

P.S. SORRY ABOUT THE TEA-CUP.

14 OCTOBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

ANOTHER SUNDAY MORNING. LATER ON I'LL TRY TO TUNE IN THE TABERNACLE CHOIR.....I'VE HEARD THEM A COUPLE OF TIMES. WHAT'S YOUR JOB FOR TODAY,DAD? YESTERDAY I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 8TH TELLING OF THE KEWANEE BOILER OVERHAULING.

THINGS SEEM TO BE BREAKING FOR US. AS OF A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO RADIOMEN ARE NO LONGER ESSENTIAL, AND ARE SUBJECT TO DISCHARGE ON THE REGULAR C.G. POINT SYSTEM. THAT MEANS 40 POINTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCHARGE. THERE ARE SEVERAL FELLOWS IN THE RADIO GANG ABOARD WITH OVER 40 POINTS SO THEY WILL BE OFF THIS SHIP WITHIN 120 DAYS. IF THE "OLD MAN" DOESN'T HAVE THEM OFF HERE IN THAT TIME THEY CAN CAUSE ALOT OF TROUBLE. I THINK THAT THIS WHOLE DEAL(THESE PATROLS) IS BOUND TO BREAK UP SOON, BECAUSE THE SHIPS COULDN'T GO ON,LOSING ALL THE RADIOMEN THAT THEY WILL. I DON'T KNOW HOW SOON, BUT I HOPE SOMETHING HAPPENS BEFORE WE GET UP ON STATION 2.

YESTERDAY WE "RIPED" THE BROADCAST OF THE ARMY-MICHIGAN GAME TO ALL PARTS OF THE SHIP FOR THE CREW TO HEAR. AND WHAT A GAME, DID YOU HEAR IT? THAT GLEN DAVIS AND DOC BLANCHARD, WHAT WONDERS, THEY ARE. TOO BAD ABOUT THE "U" TEAM SO FAR THIS YEAR. I HOPE THEY CAME OUT BETTER AGAINST DENVER. THE ARMED FORCES RADIO SERVICE IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO HEAR THESE FOOTBALLS GAMES AND DIFFERENT RADIO PROGRAMS. THEY ALSO DID A SWELL JOB ON THE WORLD SERIES, BRINGING US THE FIRST HAND BROADCAST.

WE ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE HERE THE 18TH, AND I IMAGINE WE WILL LEAVE FOR THIS STATION; BUT AS FOR GOING TO ICELAND UPON COMPLETION OF THAT PATROL, I DON'T KNOW. I HOPE NOT. THE BREAKING UP OF THIS DUTY SHOULD HAVE STARTED BY THEN. I IMAGINE THEY WILL DECOMMISSION THESE SHIPS WHEN THIS JOB IS FINISHED. I HOPE SO.

WELL, THAT'S ABOUT ALL FROM ARGENTIA, FOR NOW. IF ANYTHING BREAKS I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

LOVE,

Clay.

P.S. The sports page you sent was just what I wanted, the details of the "U"'s game and the nationwide scores. I'm keeping all the scores in the book mom sent me. Thanks.

7 OCTOBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

BACK IN ARGENTIA. WE ARRIVED YESTERDAY MORNING WITH A SHIP-LOAD OF "PASSENGERS" WE PICKED UP IN BOSTON. THESE FELLOWS ARE REPLACEMENTS FOR SOME OF THE BOYS UP AROUND HERE.

I RECEIVED SOME LOST MAIL ....YOURS WHICH CONTAINED THE CUTE PICTURE OF ANNE....THAT IS REALLY A PIP.

IN ANSWER TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN YOUR LAST LETTER: I DID SIGN UP FOR THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR INSURANCE WHEN I WAS IN "BOOT" CAMP. THANKS ALOT, MOM, FOR THE FOOTBALL BOOK AND THE OTHER ONE. I RECEIVED THEM THE OTHER DAY, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THE BOXES.....I GUESS IT'S TOO FAR FOR THEM TO SHIP BOXES WAY UP HERE. ONE REQUEST I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE: IF YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE "U OF U" OR EAST HIGH FOOTBALL WRITE-UPS IN THE TRIBUNE I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD FOLD THEM IN WITH A LETTER OR SOMETHING.

I GOT STUCK FOR SOME "S-P" DUTY TONIGHT....IT WASN'T BAD THOUGH AND WE'RE BACK EARLY. YOU DON'T FIND MUCH TROUBLE ON A NAVY BASE. I'LL HAVE LIBERTY TOMORROW NIGHT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A MOVIE AND A SODA, BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL. TODAY WAS MY DUTY DAY AND WE LOADED "STORES" MOST OF THE TIME, KNOCKING OFF FOR THE WORLD SERIES THOUGH. I'M A SOLID CUB ROOTER, BUT I'M AFRAID AFTER TODAY THAT THEY'RE FALLING APART.

DURING THIS IN PORT PERIOD OUR SHIP IS ON WHAT IS CALLED TWO-HOUR STANDBY. THAT IS, WE ARE SUBJECT AT ANY TIME TO BE CALLED TO RELIEVE A SHIP IN TROUBLE ON ONE OF THE STATIONS,AND WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO GET UNDER WAY ON TWO HOURS NOTICE. WE THOUGHT THIS MORNING THAT WE WOULD LEAVE TO RELIEVE A SHIP ON STATION 9 (OVER BY THE AZORES), BUT HAVING INSUFFICIENT STORES ABOARD WE WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP....THANK GOSH.

THE MORALE OF THE SHIP'S CREW IS AT AN ALL TIME LOW AT THE PRESENT. WHILE IN BOSTON MANY OF THE BOYS WENT OVER THE HILL TO SPEND A FEW DAYS WITH THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES, AND OF COURSE THAT LED TO LOTS OF TROUBLE. A FEW DAYS LATER AFTER WE HAD SHOVED OFF THEY HAD THEIR "CAPTAINS MAST" AND THE RESULTS WERE BAD. WITHOUT GIVING ANY OF THEM ANY KIND OF A COURT MARSHALL HE TOOK MOST OF THEIR RATES AWAY. IN SOME CASES THIS WAS ALRIGHT, BUT IN MOST OF THE CASES IT WAS NOT AS IT SHOULD BE,BECAUSE HE WAS NOT THE CAPTAIN WHEN MOST OF THEM MADE THEIR RATES. THERE IS A DEFINITE RULE WHICH STATES THAT A COMMANDING OFFICER AT A "CAPTAINS MAST" CAN ONLY TAKE AWAY RATES OR RANKS THAT HE HAS GIVEN. I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT IT, JUST THAT THERE IS A BIG STINK ABOUT IT. OUR SKIPPER IS MAKING THINGS PRETTY ROUGH FOR EVERYONE LATELY.

I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT ALL FROM HERE TONIGHT, SO I'LL HIT THE "SACK" AND WRITE YOU AGAIN SOON. I IMAGINE I'LL HERE FROM YOU IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. LOVE, Clay.

27 SEPTEMBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

JUST A SHORT NOTE TONIGHT WHILE I'M ON DUTY IN THE RADIO ROOM. GOSH, IT WAS SURE SWELL TO TALK WITH YOU LAST NIGHT AND PICK UP THE LATEST FROM S.L.C. AND IT WAS [redacted] SWELL THAT [redacted] MARY AND DICK WERE THERE. I'LL PHONE AGAIN SATURDAY NIGHT, AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

ENCLOSED IS THE MONEY-ORDER I TALKED ABOUT, AND, DAD, I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THAT MONEY. I WANT IT TO BE YOURS...I OWE IT TO YOU.

FROM YOUR EARLIER LETTERS I FIGURED AS I IMAGINE YOU DID THAT DOUG WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE U.S.A. IT'S TOO BAD THAT HE'S STUCK OVER THERE FOR A WHILE, BUT I HOPE IT'S A SHORT TIME. I THINK IT WILL BE.

GEE, MOM, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAD BEEN SENDING ME PACKAGES LATELY. VERY FEW OF THE FELLOWS ABOARD HERE RECEIVE PACKAGES..... I GUESS IT'S HARD FOR THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE MAIL TO SHIP THE PACKAGES AROUND TO OUR DIFFERENT PORTS. (I COULD HAVE USED THE WORD "PACKAGES" A FEW MORE TIMES, IF I'D TRIED).

IT'S GOOD TO BE IN THE U.S.A. AGAIN....IT WAS ABOUT THREE [redacted] MONTHS AGO WHEN WE WERE [redacted] IN CHARLESTON.

I'LL HAVE TO QUIT NOW SO THAT I CAN GO MAKE EIGHT O'CLOCK REPORTS.

LOVE,

Cleyt.

This letter was sort of a rush job. Sorry.

13 SEPTEMBER 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

WHAT MET OUR EYES ON ARRIVAL IN ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND LAST NIGHT WAS NOT A VERY PLEASING SIGHT. THROUGH AN ATMOSPHERE OF FOG AND RAIN WE COULD SEE A FEW LARGE BUILDINGS AND NOT MUCH ELSE. IT WAS SWELL TO READ YOUR LETTERS WHICH BROUGHT, AS USUAL, LOTS OFNEWS. I ALSO RECEIVED A NICE NOTE FROM BISHOP ELDREDGE.

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN SO FAR I'M AFRAID THAT OUR STAY HERE WILL CERTAINLY NOT COMPARE WITH THE FUN WE HAD IN BERMUDA. ARGENTIA IS ENTIRELY A NAVAL BASE, PROBABLY THE REASON YOU COULD NOT FIND IT ON A MAP,DAD. IT IS LOCATED ABOUT 50 (THAT'S FIFTY) MILES FROM ST. JOHNS AND WE WOULD HAVE TO SECURE A 48 HOUR PASS TO MAKE LIBERTY THERE, SO I'M NOT TOO SURE I'LL HAVE THE OPORTUNITY TO VISIT THERE. AS FAR AS AMUSEMENT ON THE BASE,IS ALL THEY HAVE HERE FOR US IS A SMALL SERVICE CLUB, NO GYM, NO NOTHIN'. THE WEATHER HERE IS NOT TOO COLD BUT QUITE MISERABLE.

IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ME NOW TO TELL YOU WHAT OUR JOB IS AND EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING THE LAST THREE MONTHS. WHEN THE WAR ENDED IN EUROPE THERE WAS A GREAT NEED TO SPEED UP TRANSPORTATION OF MEN TO THE PACIFIC SO THEY BEGAN BRINGING HUNDREDS OF THEM FROM EUROPE TO THE U.S.A. BY AIRPLANE. ONE OF OUR MAIN JOBS IS TO GIVE THESE PLANES BEARINGS, WEATHER INFORMATION, AND ANYTHING ELSE THEY ASK FOR WHEN THEY PASS OVER US. THEY GIVE US A CALL (USING VOICE) ON A SPECIFIED FREQUENCY AND WE TALK WITH THEM FOR SEVERAL MINUTES GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT. ALSO WE TRANSMIT WHAT WE CALL A BEACON SIGNAL (ON CW - THAT'S A CONTINUOUS NOTE) ON WHICH THEY TAKE A BEARING. WE GIVE THEM THIS BEACON SERVICE ONCE EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES ALL THROUGH THE 24 HOURS OF THE DAY, AND,WHEN THEY REQUEST SPECIAL ONES. AT EACH STATION WE HANDLE HUNDREDS OF PLANES IN THE TWENTY SOME ODD DAYS WE ARE OUT. OTHER JOBS THAT WE DO ARE THE SENDING OF WEATHER REPORTS TO WASHINGTON, ABOUT THREE OR FOUR A DAY. WE HAVE SEVERAL NAVY MEN ABOARD HERE WHOSE JOB IT IS TO MAKE OUT THESE WEATHER REPORTS WHICH WE RADIOMEN SEND INTO WASHINGTON. IT IS VERY INTERESTING THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY GATHER THEIR INFORMATION. IN ONE KIND OF OBSERVATION THEY SEND A SMALL TRANSMITTER HOOKED ON TO A BALOON UP IN TO THE AIR AND THAT TRANSMITTER SENDS THEM BACK THE INFORMATION THEY ARE LOOKING FOR.

ANOTHER JOB OF OURS IS WRAT THEY CALL AIR-SEA RESCUE WHICH IS USED IN CASE ONE OF THESE PLANES GOES DOWN AND SOME OF THEM DO. WE HAVE A DRILL NEARLY EVERY DAY ON THIS BUSINESS WHICH HAS TAKEN THE PLACE OF OUR DAILY G.Q.(GENERAL QUARTERS OR BATTLE STATIONS) DRILLS. IN MY OLD G.Q. STATION I HAD THE CONTROL OF ONE OF THE DEPTH CHARGE STATIONS ON THE FANTAIL.

YOU HAVE NOTICED THAT WE DON'T PATROL THE SAME STATION EVERY TIME WE GO OUT AND HERE IS THE EXPLANATION FOR THAT. IN OUR GROUP THERE ARE ELEVEN STATIONS TO BE COVERED AT ALL TIMES.

THE POSITION OF THESE RANGE ALL THE WAY FROM SOUTH OF BERMUDA, A STATION WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY COVERED, TO ICELAND, AND AS FAR ACROSS AS THE AZORES. YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE LEFT PHILLY THAT FIRST TRIP, IT WAS VERY WARM, WELL THAT WAS STATION 10, AFTER WHICH WE WENT INTO CHARLESTON AND BACK OUT TO ANOTHER VERY WARM POSITION WHICH WAS STATION 11, AND FROM THERE TO BERMUDA. WE HAVE JUST BEEN RELIVED OF STATION 6 WHICH IS OUT FROM NEWFOUDLAND AND WERE NOT SURE OF OUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT, BUT WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE STATION 5 WHICH IS HALF WAY TO THE BRITISH ISLES. THE NORTHERN-MOST POSITION IS STATION 2 WHICH IS BETWEEN ICELAND AND GREENLAND A SPOT WHICH WE ARE SLATED TO LAND IN VERY SOON. THAT'S SORT OF A ROUGH EXPLANATION OF IT---YOU SEE, WE WORK IT IN A ROTATION PLAN SO THAT EVERY SHIP GETS TO EACH STATION. AS FAR AS WEATHER IS CONCERNED I WAS A SUCCOR TO COME ON THIS SHIP, AS IT WENT TO THE WARM STATIONS IN THE SUMMER AND IS HEADED FOR THE COLD, ROUGH STATIONS THIS WINTER, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.

I HOPE DOUG IS ON HIS WAY HOME, BUT NOT ON HIS WAY TO THE PACIFIC. I REMEMBER IN ONE OF HISLETTERS HE REMARKED ABOUT HIS POINTS FOR DISCHARGE, AND I GUESS HE IS QUITE A WAYS DOWN THE LIST, BUT I HOPE THEY DON'T GET HIM FOR THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION. IT WAS SWELL THAT DALE LECHEMINANT GOT A LEAVE...THAT'S BETTER THAN I CAN DO. HOW ABOUT DICK BECKMAN, DIDHE GET THAT LEAVE HE WAS EXPECTING?

EVEN THOUGH THE COAST GUARD IS BEING MORE LIBERAL IN GIVING OUT THERE DISCHARGE POINTS THAN THE NAVY, IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME TO MUSTER OUT ALL OF THE FELLOWS. POINTS ARE STILL NO GOOD TO A RADIOMEN AS WE ARE ESSENTIAL AND PROBABLY WILL BE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THERE ARE ABOUT SIX OF OUR RADIO GANG ON THIS SHIP WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCHARGE IF THEY HELD SOME OTHER RATE. THE COAST GUARD WILL DISCHARGE APERSON WITH 40 POINTS WHILE IT TAKES 44 TO GET OUT OF THE NAVY. AS FAR AS THIS POINT SYSTEM IS CONCERNED I HAVE NO INTEREST ...MY GRAND TOTAL IS 15 3/4.

I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT OUR LAST PATROL, BUT THER ISN'T MUCH TO SAY ANYWAY. IT WAS RATHER COLD AND I DIDN'T GET OUT ON DECK MUCH. THE COLD AND ROUGH WATER MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOW MOVIES ON THE FANTAIL OF THE SHIP SO WE HELD THEM ON THE MESS DECK, WHICH WAS CROWDED BUT O.K. I READ A FEW BOOKS IN MY OFF HOURS, BUT THAT'S ABOUT HOW EXCITING IT WAS.

AS FAR A SECURING A LEAVE GOES, I GUESS IT WILL BE SOME TIME. I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE WILL COME TO THE STATES NEXT AND UNTIL WE DO THERE ISN'T ANY CHANCE OF GETTING A FEW DAYS OFF. THERE IS SO MUCH SCUTTLEBUTT ABOARD THIS SHIP YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE AND WHAT NOT TO BELIEVE. THE FELLOWS SEEM TO THINK THAT WE'RE SCHEDULED FOR DUTY UNTIL JANUARY AND DO NOT EXPECT TO HIT THE STATES UNTIL THEN BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THAT. WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY MESSAGES ON IT.

LATE FLASH! !

NEWS THAT WE RECEIVED IN THIS MORNINGS GUARD MAIL DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD. THAT NEWS SAYS THAT UNLESS THINGS ARE CHANGED WE WILL BE HERE IN ARGENTIA UNTIL OCTOBER 15, SPENDING SOME OF THAT TIME IN DRY DOCK. (WHICH MEANS PLENTY OF WORK FOR ALL HANDS) ON THE 15TH WE ARE TO GO TO STATION 5 ON THE COMPLETION OF WHICH WE SPEND OUR INPORT PERIOD IN REKJAVIK(I DONT KNOW HOW YOU SPELL IT), ICELAND AND THEN TO STATION 2. I CAN'T SEE SITTING AROUND HERE FOR A MONTH AND THE PART AFTER THAT SOUNDS EVEN WORSE. I'M NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WELL, I GUESS THAT ABOUT WINDS UP THIS LETTER. I HOPE YOU'RE ALL FEELING GOOD AND THAT MARIAN, RICKY, AND ANNE ARE ENJOYING SALT LAKE CITY. I'LL WRITE YOU AGAIN PRETTY SOON.

LOVE,

Clayt.

P.S. I MADE A LITTLE ADVANCEMENT IN MY WORK ON THE SHIP LAST TIME OUT. INSTEAD OF STANDING THE REGULAR TWO DIFFERENT WATCHES THAT I USED TO STAND, I NOW GO ON ALL THREE OF THEM ..... THAT IS, 1. THE POSITION WHERE YOU COPY STEADY MESSAGES FROM WASHINGTON, WE CALL IT FOX SCHEDULES, 2. THE POSITION WHERE YOU GUARD A DISTRESS FREQUENCY AND AIR-SEA RESCUE FREQUENCY, AND 3. THE POSITION WHERE YOU SEND WEATHER REPORTS INTO WASHINGTON. THIS NUMBER 3 POSTIONIS THE ONE WHICH I HAVE JUST STARTED TO STAND WATCHES ON, THE OTHER TWO I HAVE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG. (IT'S PRETTY HARD TO UNDERSTAND, MAYBE)

Not censored

September 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

We have been relieved of our patrol station and are now heading toward Argentia, Newfoundland. We should arrive sometime tomorrow night.

I thought I'd drop you just a short note tonight so that I'd have a letter ready to mail the minute they take it off the ship. This is just to let you know I'm feeling swell & tell you where I'll be (Still write F.P.O. New York).

I don't know much about the port we are just about to enter. I believe it's strictly a Navy base and the nearest town of any size is St. Johns which is about 40 miles away — they tell me. I'll tell you all about it in my next letter, which will be longer than this one.

The ~~last~~ patrol just completed went off smoothly but boringly as usual.

I'm looking forward to "Mail Call" tomorrow night.

Love, Clark.

1, AUGUST 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

JUST ANOTHER SHORT NOTE TO REPORT THE LATEST TO YOU BEFORE SHOVING OFF TIME WHICH WILL BE SUNDAY THE 19TH. AFTER THAT TIME I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU WHERE AND WHEN AND EVERYTHING, OUR PLANS BEING UNCHANGED BY THE ENDING OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC.

THE POINT SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN DEVISED FOR THE NAVY SOUNDS QUITE UNFAIR TO MOST OF THE FELLOWS ESPECIALLY THOSE SINGLE FELLOWS OR THOSE WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE SERVICE AND SEEN ALOT OF ACTION. THEIR TIME OVERSEAS HAS GIVEN THEM NO BOOST IN POINTS UNDER THIS SYSTEM AND IT DOES SEEM RATHER BAD THAT A FELLOW WHO HAS SPENT ALL OF HIS SERVICE TIME IN THE STATES WILL BE RATED ON THE SAME SCALE WITH ANOTHER FELLOW WHO HAS BEEN THROUGH QUITE A BIT OF ROUGH GOING. I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL MAKE SOME ALLOWANCE FOR THAT IN THE FUTURE....THEY SHOULD. AS FOR THE "HOOLIGANS", THE COAST GUARD TO YOU, THEIR PLAN IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THE ONE PUT OUT BY THE NAVY EXCEPT FOR A FEW DETAILS, ONE OF WHICH I DON'T GO FOR. THAT IS A PARAGRAPH WHICH MAKES THE PLAN INAPPLICABLE TO RADIOMEN, RADARMEN, PHARMACIST MATES, AND A COULPLE OF OTHER RATES. IT SEEMS THAT THESE LISTED RATES ARE NEEDED AND THERE IS A SHORTAGE SO I GUESS THAT MEANS AT THE PRESENT TIME WE HAVE NO PLAN OF DISCHARGE. I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING OUT FOR QUITE A WHILE, ANYWAY. HOW ABOUT DOUG?

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 9TH OF AUGUST, DAD. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DELAY IN THE MAIL REACHING US HERE IN BERMUDA SO THAT MAY BE THE LAST ONE I'LL GET BEFORE WE GO OUT AGAIN. THANKS FOR THE PICTURE....NOTE THE "RATE-HAPPY" RADIOMEN...COULDN'T SHOVE THOSE LEFT ARMS OUT MUCH FARTHER.

THE NEXT LETTER YOU'LL GET WILL PROBABLY BE FROM ARGENTIA, NEWFOUDLAND SO SO LONG FOR NOW.

LOVE,

more

P.S. DID YOU PULL OUT ONE A MINUTE AT DEC[illegible]ERS THIS YEAR, OR DID YOU LET THE OWTHER BOYS GET ONE OR TWO?

HOPE YOU'RE ALL BETTER BY NOW, MOM.

[illegible]

JUST A FEW LINES TO REPORT THE LATEST TO YOU BEFORE SAYING OFF TIME WHICH WILL BE SUNDAY THE 15TH. AFTER THAT TIME I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU WHERE AND WHEN AND EVERYTHING, OUR PLANS BEING UNCHANGED BY THE ENDING OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC.

THE POINT SYSTEM WHICH WAS BEEN DEVISED FOR THE NAVY SOUNDS QUITE UNFAIR TO MOST OF THE FELLOWS ESPECIALLY THOSE SINGLE FELLOWS OR THOSE WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE SERVICE AND SEEN ALOT OF ACTION. THEIR TIME OVERSEAS HAS GIVEN THEM NO BOOST IN POINTS UNDER THIS SYSTEM AND IT DOES SEEM RATHER BAD THAT A FELLOW WHO HAS SPENT ALL OF HIS SERVICE TIME IN THE STATES WILL BE RATED ON THE SAME SCALE WITH ANOTHER FELLOW WHO HAS BEEN THROUGH QUITE A BIT OF ROUGH GOING. I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL MAKE SOME ALLOWANCE FOR THAT IN THE FUTURE....THEY SHOULD. AS FOR THE "HOOLIGANS" THE COAST GUARD TO YOU, THEIR PLAN IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THE ONE PUT OUT BY THE NAVY EXCEPT FOR A FEW DETAILS ONE OF WHICH I DON'T GO FOR. THAT IS A PARAGRAPH WHICH MAKES THE PLAN INAPPLICABLE TO RADIOMEN, RADARMEN, PHARMACIST MATES, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER RATES. IT SEEMS THAT THESE LISTED RATES ARE NEEDED AND THERE IS A SHORTAGE SO I GUESS THAT MEANS AT THE PRESENT TIME WE HAVE NO PLAN OF DISCHARGE. I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING OUT FOR QUITE A WHILE, ANYWAY. HOW ABOUT DOUGY?

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 7TH OF AUGUST, DAD. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DELAY IN THE MAIL REACHING US HERE IN BERMUDA SO THAT MAY BE THE LAST ONE I'LL GET BEFORE WE GO OUT AGAIN. THANKS FOR THE PICTURE....NOTE THE RATE-HAPPY RADIOMEN...COULDN'T SHOVE THOSE LEFT ARMS OUT MUCH FARTHER.

THE NEXT LETTER YOU'LL GET WILL PROBABLY BE FROM ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND SO SO LONG FOR NOW.

LOVE,

[illegible]

13 AUGUST 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

AFTER BEING IN BERMUDA NEARLY TEN DAYS I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I LIKE IT BETTER EVERY DAY. WE'VE FOUND A RECREATION SPOT, RIDDLES BAY, WHERE WE NOW SPEND ALL OUR LIBERTY. THEY HAVE A GOLF COURSE THERE AND EVERY OTHER DAY WE GO OUT THERE BY BOAT AND SHOOT A ROUND OR TWO. THEY ALSO HAVE ACCOMADATIONS FOR PLAYING BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, TENNIS, OR BASEBALL AND ALL FREE OF CHARGE. IT FEELS GOOD TO GET OUT AND RUN AROUND A BIT AS THERE IS NO CHANCE TO GET ANY PHYSICAL EXERCISE WHEN WE ARE OUT AT SEA. WE ALSO GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO SWIMMING OFF OF THE SHIP IN THE AFTERNOONS WHEN WE ARE ABOARD.

RIGHT NOW I'M ON WATCH, THE MID-NIGHT TO 4 A.M., AND I GUESS I'LL FEEL PRETTY ROUGH TOMORROW AS I'LL GET NO SLEEP TONIGHT. I SAW THE MOVIE WHICH WE SHOW EVERY NIGHT OUT ON THE FAN-TAIL, AND THEN CAME DIRECTLY ON WATCH AT MID-NIGHT. REVILLE(I DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS THE CORRECT SPELLING) WILL SOUND AT 4:30 TOMORROW MORNING TO GIVE US TIME TO PREPARE FOR A SPECIAL INSPECTION WHICH IS HELD BY THE PORT AUTHORITIES. THIS GOES ON FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS .

MOM, I HOPE YOU'RE ALL BETTER BY NOW BUT NOT WORKING TOO HARD. I'M FEELING FINE ABOUT EVERYTHING AND GLAD TO SEE THE WAR NEWS IS LOOKING UP. I GUESS THAT JUST ABOUT COVERS THINGS FOR NOW SO I'LL SIGN OFF.

LOVE,

Clayt.

P.S. REX HAS BEEN TRYING TO TAKE ME INTO THE ACADEMY... THAT IS HE THINKS I SHOULD TAKE THE TESTS WHEN THEY ARE GIVEN AGAIN, BUT I CAN'T QUITE SEE IT FOR ME.

C. R. Williams RM 3/c

SUNDAY MORNING
AUGUST 5, 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,
WHEN IN PORT I GET A CHANCE TO USE OUR "MILLS" WHICH ARE TOO BUSY WHEN AT SEA TO BE USED. SO FROM THAT STATEMENT YOU MAY GATHER THAT I AM IN SOME PORT. YES, THIS TIME IT'S BEAUTIFUL BERMUDA AND IT CERTAINLY IS BEAUTIFUL.
UPON ARRIVING I WAS VERY HAPPY TO FIND FOUR OF YOUR WONDERFUL LETTERS WAITING FOR ME AND ALSO TWO OF DOUG'S MASTERPIECES, ONE OF WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER FROM YOU. YOUR LETTERS SURE HIT THE SPOT AND BRING UP TO DATE THAT LOST MONTH. SOME OF THE NEWS WASN'T GOOD NEWS THOUGH... I SURE HOPE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, MOM, AND I WAS VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF MR. JUDD'S PASSING AWAY.
I IMAGINE IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE YOU RECEIVED AT LETTER FROM ME, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT AS WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PASS ANY MAIL WHILE AT SEA THIS TIME. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED ONE LETTER WRITTEN WEEKS AGO WHICH THEY PROBABLY MAILED HERE IN BERMUDA. I ALWAYS KEEP ONE LETTER ON HAND IN CASE WE DO PASS MAIL AT ANYTIME AT SEA. YOU EXPECTED ANOTHER LETTER FROM ME BEFORE WE LEFT CHARLESTON, I GUESS, BUT WE SHOVED OFF A LITTLE SOONER THAN I HAD EXPECTED.
NOW, FOR A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S IN STORE FOR ME. WHEN WE WERE AT CHARLESTON I FELT RATHER CERTAIN THAT AFTER COMPLETING OUR NEXT PATROL, WHICH JUST ENDED, WE WOULD HEAD FOR BOSTON FOR A TWO WEEK INPORT PERIOD. AND, MY HOPES WERE VERY HIGH AS TO SECURING A LEAVE RROM THERE, SO I WROTE YOU THAT I MIGHT GET ONE. AFTER WE HAD BEEN AT SEA FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE TELLING US TO REPORT TO BERMUDA WHEN OUR PATROL WAS FINISHED AND AFTER BEING THERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO HEAD NORTH. THE NORTH ATLANTIC HAS FINALLY GOT ME. WE'LL LEAVE HERE ABOUT THE 20TH FOR A PATROL STATION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND AFTER COMPLETING THAT PATROL WE WILL HEAD FOR ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND FOR A BRIEF REST. THAT SHOULD BE AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER SOMETIME. MORE PATROLS AT DIFFERENT NORTH ATLANTIC STATIONS SHOULD BE NEXT SO I'LL GUESS SOMETIME IN OCTOBER WE MIGHT HIT THE GOOD OLD U.S.A. AGAIN. SORTA SHOOTS MY CHANCES FOR ALEAVE, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.
I FINALLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM REX TELLING ME ABOUT HIS SCHOOL AND DUTIES. I WAS SURE IN DOUBT ABOUT WHERE HE WAS AND WHAT HE WAS DOING FOR A WHILE. FROM WHAT HE SAID IN HIS LETTER HE LIKES IT ALOT AND I THINK HE'LL GET A GOOD COURSE THERE. HE IS GOING TO PLAY A LITTLE FOOTBALL FOR THEM ALSO. I THINK I'L L HAVE TO DROP IN ON ONE OF HIS GAME S THIS FALL.
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I STEPPED MY FIRST STEP ON ENGLISH SOIL. WE ARE ANCHORED A LITTLE OFF THE COAST OF BERMUDA AND THE LIBERTY BOAT LEAVES THE SHIP AT ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON AND WE MUST ~~XHE~~ CATCH THE RETURNING BOAT AT SIX IN THE EVENING. THAT FIVE HOURS ISN'T MUCH LIBERTY BUT WE GET A CHANCE TO DO MOST THAT THERE IS TO DO HERE. I GOT ON THE BOAT YESTERDAY AT ONE HEADED FOR THE CITY OF HAMILTON AND ABOUT 35 MINUTES LATER, AFTER PASSING SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WHITE MANSIONS ON THE SEA, WE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION. THE ISLAND IS COVERED WITH GREEN TREES AND IS DOTTED WITH HUNDREDS OF THESE BEAUTIFUL WHITE-ROOFED HOUSES, REALLY QUITE A PLACE. I FIRST WENT INTO A SMALL CAFE TO BUY A COLD DRINK WAS CONFRONTED BY THE BRITISH MONEY SYSTEM, WHICH IS DIFFERENT BUT AFTER A BIT OF BUYING I MANAGED ALL RIGHT. THERE ARE NO AUTOMOBILES HERE OTHER THAN ARMY JEEPS... EVERYONE RIDES BICYCLES OR THEY USE THEIR LITTLE SPEED BOATS TO GET FROM PLACE TO PLACE. MOST EVERYONE WEARS SHORTS AND LONG KNEE SOCKS AND THEY LOOK VERY SNAPPY. THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO DO HERE... ON OUR NON-LIBERTY DAYS WE STAND WATCHES AND GO SWIMMING OFF OF THE SHIP. WE'LL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE BERMUDA NIGHT LIFE, IF THERE IS ANY, AS OUR LIBERTY EXPIRES AT SIX IN THE EVENING. TODAY MOST OF THEM BOYS IN MY LIBERTY SECTION ARE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, BECAUSE WE HAD TO PRACTICALLY CARRY THEM TO THE BOAT YESTERDAY... THEY SURE HIT THE BOTTLE A BIT TOO HARD AFTER A MONTH OF DRYNESS. I MAY GO TO HAMILTON TODAY FOR "S.P." (SHORE PATROL) DUTY ~~XXXXX~~ BUT I HOPE NOT. IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD JOB TO HAVE TO BRING YOUR BUDDIES BACK TO THE SHIP.

I'M VERY PLEASED TO SAY THAT THIS LAST TRIP WAS MUCH MORE PLEASANT THAN THE FIRST, THE WEATHER BEING NICER AND THE WATER SMOOTHER. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FOR ME TO GET BACK TO CATCHING THOSE 10 INCH "NATIVES" AFTER PLAYING AROUND WITH SOME OF 6 AND 8 FOOT SHARKS WE HAVE CAUGHT ON THIS SHIP. ON THIS LAST TRIP WE CAUGHT TWO A DAY SOMETIMES. THAT WAS OUR ONLY BREAK IN THE MONOTONY AND IT SURE GETS BORESOME WITH THE SAME OLD THING DAY IN DAY OUT. I WAS GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT DICK BACKMAN FROM YOU AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO HEAR ANYTHING MORE ABOUT HIM OR MORRY JONES WILL YOU PLEASE PASS IT ALONG IN ONE OF YOUR LETTERS? I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM EITHER OF THEM SINCE WE LEFT "A.C." I GET SWELL LETTERS FROM FRED OCCASIONALLY.
WHEN AT SEA THE OLD CASH REALLY BEGINS TO PILE UP ON YOU SO I'LL START PAYING BACK THE MONEY YOU'VE LENT ME. ENCLOSED IS A $25.00 MONEY ORDER FOR YOU. AFTER THE TIME IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC I'LL PROBABLY BE A MILLION-AIR.
I'D LIKE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE "SERGEANT" IN HIS "KILLING RED MUSTACHE" AND CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS ADVANCEMENT I THINK I'D BETTER WRITE HIM. SPEAKING OF MUSTACHES AND BEARDS YOU SHOULD SEE SOME OF THE BEAUTIES GROWN ON THE MIGHTY "E", YOURS TRULY NOT INCLUDED.
I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT ALL FOR TODAY, FOLKS, BUT TAKE IT EASY, MOM, AND GET ALL THE WAY WELL.

LOVE,

Clayt.

C. R. Williams RM 3/c.

[illegible]
15) [illegible]

[illegible]

here many [illegible]

[illegible]

This [illegible]

[illegible] I had

[illegible] through

one [illegible] it was strung up,

[illegible] then [illegible] it

[illegible] there

[illegible] here

[illegible]

That is the most exciting [illegible]

7 ~~June~~ July 1945

Dear Mom + Dad,

Some more of your swell letters caught up with me today — those written June 6 and 7th. Also received was your letter written July 1st, the one sent to F.P.O. New York. They asked me to advise the person addressing my mail to Charleston etc that as long as I'm aboard ship my mail must come thru the Fleet Post office. I guess they returned that one to you.

Not much interesting has been going on here in Charleston. I've been working during the day on radio equipment and doing some painting in the "shack" (Radio Room). We've changed the watch arrangement so that we now stand 6 hrs on + 6 off for 24 hours after which we get overnight liberty. The next day we are "day workers" + then back to the watches. Right now it's 3 AM and I'm on the "Mid" to 6 watch.

"Andy" Anderson, the kid from D.C., and I have been making liberty about every other night ("liberty hounds"). We usually have a nice dinner, see a movie, and maybe drop in the U.S.O. He's a nice guy and beside that he doesn't drink or smoke. He's a cook aboard ship.

I'm all ready to "shove off" again and we should be out of here by the 12th. I'll write you another letter before we leave, but when we once get out it's very hard to get any mail off the ship & back to the States so you may not get a letter for quite a while after that.

That's about all for now.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. You'd better get up on that stream, Dad, and relieve it of a couple of dozen natives.

30 JUNE 1945

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

BACK IN THE U.S.A. AND IT SURE SEEMS GOOD. YESTERDAY MORNING WE PULLED IN THE CHARLESTON NAVY YARD AND AFTER A VERY ROUGH DAY OF UNLOADING AMMUNITION WE WERE ABLE TO SET OUR FEET ON LAND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 19 DAYS. THE LADIES OF THE RED CROSS ARE REALLY "ON THE BALL" DOWN HERE AS WE FOUND OUT WHEN WE DOCKED LAST NIGHT. THEY HAD A BIG SIGN SAYING "WELCOMEHOME BOYS" AND WHEN WE WALKED DOWN THE GANGWAY TO THE NAVY YARD THEY HAD A BIG TRUCK FULL OF MILK (WHICH TASTED SO GOOD TO ME THAT I DRANK A QUART), ICE CREAM, AND COOKIES WHICH THEY GAVE US FREE OF CHARGE. THEY DO THIS FOR ALL THE BOYS COMING IN.

DAD, I RECEIVED THREE OF YOUR SWELL, LONG, NEWSY LETTERS BRINGING ME UP ON THE LASTEST FROMM HOME. THE LAST ONE WAS WRITTEN THE 26TH, I BELIEVE. MOM, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE DONE WITH YOUR BOXES, BUT THEY MAY COME THROUGH SOME DAY. YOU MENTIONED IN ONE OF YOUR LETTERS ABOUT PUTTING REQUESTS IN MY LETTERS FOR THINGS FROM HOME, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD IDEA TO SEND ME THINGS AS I AM ALWAYS CHANGING AROUND AND IT'S HARD FOR BOXES TO FOLLOW ME.

NOW THIS LETTER IS NOT GOING THROUGH THE CENSORS OFFICE SO I CAN SAY A LITTLE MORE THAN I WOULD OTHERWISE, NOT PUTTING ANYONE IN ANY DANGER OF COURSE. OUR JOB IN THE ATLANTIC IS A VERY MONOTONOUS ONE AND MAKES YOU VERY DISGUSTED BECAUSE IT SEEMS SO WORTHLESS. THE JOB IS TO PATROL A DESIGNATED AREA IN THE ATLANTIC SENDING OUT WEATHER REPORTS, ACTING AS A RESCUE VESSEL FOR PLANES DOWNED ON THEIR WAY TO THE STATES, AND GIMING HOMING SIGNALS TO THOSE PLANES.

I APPLIED FOR LEAVE THIS TIME BUT IT WAS NOT GRANTED BECAUSE OF THE SHORT TIME WE WILL BE IN PORT, PROBABLY ABOUT 12 DAYS. WE WILL SHOVE OFF AND I THINK WE'LL GO BACK ON THE SAME KIND OF A JOB BUT IN A DIFFERENT AREA, COMING IN TO A DIFFERNT PORT NEXT TIME. THEN AGAIN I'M GOING TO APPLY FOR A LEAVE AND I MAY DO BETTER, I HOPE. NOTHING NEW FROM THE AIR CORPS AS YET.

TONIGHT I'M GOING ON LIBERTY WHICH WE HAVE EVERY OTHER NIGHT WHILE IN PORT. THE OTHER NIGHT WE STAND SECURITY WATCHES. I MIGHT TRY TO CALL MARY AND SEE IF I CAN TALK FOR A FEW MINUTES WITH HER. I TALKED WITH YOU LAST JUST THREE WEEKS AGO, RIGHT?

SINCE I LAST WROTE YOU WHICH WAS QUITE SOME TIME AGO WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH QUITE A BIT, MEANING A HURRICANE WHICH KNOCKED US AROUND THE ATLANTC FOR 36 HOURS. WE HAD BEEN RECEIVEING STORM WARNINGS FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THE 17TH DAY OUT WE FOUND OURSELVES RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS HURRICANE WHICH HAD BEEN SWEEPING THE COAST OF FLORIDA. BOY! WE HAD SOME TIME TRYING TO COPY CODE, EAT, SLEEP, AS THINGS WE FALLING EVERY WHICH WAY. THE BOW OF THE SHIP DIGGING INTO THE WATER AND THE HUGE WAVES SWEEPING OVER THE SHIP PRACTICALLY SHAKING IT TO PIECES AT TIMES. WE COULDN'T GO OUT ON DECK UNLESS WE WANTED TO BE WASHED OVER. EVERYTHING TURNED OUT O.K. THOUGH AND EVERYBODY 'S HAPPY NOW.

BOY! IS IT HOT DOWN HERE IN CHARLESTON ! I DON'T GO FOR THIS CITY VERY MUCH, NOT MUCH HERE TO DO. I GUESS I'LL GO TO A MOVIE OR SOMETHING WHEN I GO ON LIBERTY. THANKS FOR THE MONEY, DAD, IT WILL PROBABLY COME IN HANDY AS OUR PAY RECORDS HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP WITH US YET. BUT, I DID GET MY SEABAG TODAY WITH EVERYTHING IN TACT.

WELL, IVE SURE MURDERED THE TYPING IN THIS LETTER, BUT IT'S BEEN SORT OF A RUSH GOING ON LIBERTY IN ABOUT AN HOUR.
THANKS AGAIN F AND THE SWELL LETTERS.

Monday Evening
2- June 1945

Dear Mom & Dad,

It's been quite a while since I last wrote you, but things have been rather quiet, lately. In fact, too quiet — nothing ever happens!

But tonight things are really going to happen! We're headed straight into a hurricane & it's headed for us so there's going to be a rough time on the "mighty E" tonight. I go on watch in a couple of hours so I'll probably feel all of the effects — ohhh!

Well, it's been 15 days now, that I've been at sea. Getting used to it was the whole trick, because now that I've been out awhile I feel pretty good most of the time. Quite a "salt" — 15 days sea-duty. We went for a swell swim yesterday afternoon — it's the second time we've taken a dip & it's sure fun and refreshing.

I for a fellow aboard who is from Salt Lake City. He went to West High a few years ago — a swell kid.

It's going to be swell to hit port + get back to some of the luxuries — milk (unpowdered), cold water, sleep — oh, there are lots of things. News from home, for one.

Might as well sign off for now — going on watch.

Love,
Clay V.

C. R. Williams RM 3/c

"Welcome Welcome Sabbath Morning" Sunday 17 June 1945

Dearest Mom + Dad,

They tell me the mail will be picked up by another ship passing us either today or tomorrow so I thought I'd drop you a line now so as to send it with that bunch. I'm now on watch — the 4 to 8, this week.

The sea has been very calm — very nice to me. I've felt pretty fine ever since those first two days — gaining some weight back that I lost.

The evenings are what I live for aboard here. Boy! it's sure beautiful and comfortable to sit out on deck in the evenings. I've pulled my "sack" out on deck so that I can sleep under the stars instead of in the hot, stuffy sleeping quarters below. It's not like air cond'd 489 "B".

I'm sure aching for some

mail from home. It hasn't yet caught up with me — probably when we come back I'll be able to pick it up — I hope so.

Chances for leave when in port are rather slim as they need Radiomen on duty all of the time. So they usually hold on to you too tight.

I like my work alright — it gets a little nerve-wracking at times but you manage to cool off. I copy code most of the [redacted] 8 hours a day that I'm on watch. There are 3 swell fellows on watch with me — [redacted] two RM 2/c and one RM 3/c. We've got a swell Chief RM working over us.

How's everyone feeling — I hope, O.K. A little news from home would certainly help out here — but the mail will come there sometime. How's where's Dad?

I've managed to scratch down a few notes to you tonite between messages, but I'll have to sign off now. Love, Clayt.

C.R. Williams RM 3/c

United States Coast Guard ~~Training Station~~
~~Atlantic City, New Jersey~~

Wednesday 13th June 1945
My 3rd day at sea.

Dear Mom + Dad,

My first letter to you from the deep blue sea. My reason for not writing is a very good one — you might have guessed it — your boy has been seasick. Today was the first time that I didn't ~~the~~ run to the rail during watch + it sure seemed good.

The morning after the night I tathed to you we shoved off — (Monday). I immediately I began standing Radio watches — four hours on and 8 hours off. This week my schedule is — on watch from Noon to 4 PM and then on watch again from Midnight to 4 AM and on and on like that throughout the week. Next week I will probably have the 4 to 8. Catch on? As I said before, today on my Noon to 4 PM watch which I just got off was the first time I haven't "lost my cookies" during watch. I feel pretty good today. Last night in the middle of a message I had to shove the phones on another fellows head and run for the rail — several times. My job on watch is to sit for 4 hours and copy

messages sent from Washington — I don't do any transmitting myself.

I sure like the fellows aboard. It was a lucky break for me to get with so many young fellows. And the officers are very young, also.

The weather is perfect, but the water is a little rough at times. Already I'm getting a good tan. In the evening I hate to go below to my bunk because the weather outside is so beautiful. It's pretty hot down where I sleep. They even show movies out on the fantail in the evening.

On our way from Boston to Philly last week the Pennsylvania Railroad lost our sea bags & the ship was waiting for us 3 radiomen so we had to come aboard without our gear. But I'm making out O.K. Its all I need is dungarees which I had time to buy before we left.

We have 12 radio operators aboard — 4 of us are on watch at a time. The fellows I'm with are very regular kids & make it easy for me to get by.

I have a feeling that we'll be back to the States pretty soon — I don't know how long pretty soon is but it shouldn't be out too long. That doesn't really tell you anything, I know.

I think I'd better try to down some chow and hit the sack.

C.R. Williams RM 3/c Love, Clay

8 June 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm surprised and I guess you are that I'm still in Boston. The weather has been so poor that the planes have been grounded so we haven't been able to get away. I expect to leave by plane in a few days. During the last few days I have been working on ~~a~~ that same PF doing all of the jobs that I would have done if hadn't got my rate. Today I was chipping paint over the side of the ship, and general cleaning detail. I've learned the jobs a seaman does & I'm happy that I'm not one, mainly because a Radioman is left alone.

The officers are always interfering with the seaman — keeping them at work etc.

Chuck Oesterle and I have been taking advantage of our liberty here in Boston. Wednesday night we saw a stage play which was very funny and — some play. Last night we went to see "Oh Brother" with Hugh Herbert, another comedy — and a good one. Tonite we are going to see "The Wind Is Mindy". We've been able to get free tickets to these plays at the Y.M.C.A and we're sure enjoyed them.

This is just a short note while I'm waiting for Chuck to phone his wife. He's sure a swell, clean cut fellow. I didn't ever tell you about him before but we used to play

basketball together in Atlantic City — I hope we can get on the same ship.

Well, that's my status up to the present — address, the same (by the way I haven't seen any mail yet — I think they've tangled it up somewhere)

General Patton flew in Boston yesterday and they had a big parade, and another celebrity — Bing Crosby appears here ~~tomorrow~~ on a bond tour.

Sorry for the horriness + scribbling. Gotta go now.

Love,

Clayt.

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

5 June 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

Things have been popping around here lately. Information has finally been given out concerning our ship assignment. In fact, action has already been taken. Out of the 40 of us (radiomen from A.C.) only 20 are still here at the Brunswick. Each day they call out 10 fellows to pack up their bags and weigh them in. They are flying us to Newfoundland 10 at a time, each day taking 10 more so I figure I will be ready to leave in 2 days. We fly from here to Newfoundland where we catch our ships for North Atlantic patrol — probably ~~[illegible]~~ go ~~[illegible]~~ to Greenland.

I've been on some pretty crumby details while waiting to shove off. Today, for instance, I went with several other fellows down to the pier to work on a ship — a PF (Patrol Frigate). It's a little smaller or the same size as most Destroyers — I might get on that kind of a ship as a Radioman. Today they had me and a friend of mine, Chuck Oestele, down in the engine room, inside of some

bailers and filters cleaning them out with diesel oil — what a messy job. They don't seem to understand that we're Radiomen, — only kidding, but I will be glad to get on the move and then assigned to a Ship.

We have finished with another physical and marked "O.K." for sea duty so, now, all I have to do is wash some clothes + pack up my bags.

Dad, I guess I won't be able to get you anything special for Father's Day, but I want to say that I sure appreciate everything swell you've done for me — the trip "back last", the phone calls and loans, and flow of mail + Happy Father's Day to you.

Well, I'm pretty tired tonight so I'll "hafta hit the sack".

Love,
Clayt.

P.S. Come to think of it I should have sent you something, because you couldn't "take it back" and would you be mad if you couldn't do that. How much licorice,

how many tees, how many pajamas, will you receive?
Or will it be dry flies maybe?

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

3 June 1945

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Yesterday was my big day of graduation from Radio School. I was surprised at the graduation exercises because they were much better than I had expected, in fact, they were excellent. I'm sure you would have enjoyed them. As soon as they were over the boys going to Boston (that's me) marched out and hopped right into our truck and we were off to the station where we just made our train.

After a pretty rough trip we arrived in Boston at 0200 last night, and finally we were assigned a place to stay and here I am. I had a few hours sleep last night in a place which isn't as good as where we came from but I guess it's O.K. Being Sunday there isn't much going on and very little information to be given out on anything. We are stationed at a Replacement center —

its an old hotel converted for the Coast Guard. The way the talk goes the fellows seem to think that we'll be out of here in less than a week, but that's just scuttlebutt. ~~Our~~ My address here will be:

C. R. Williams RM 3/c 601-475
U. S. C. G. Receiving Station
520 ~~Boylston St~~ Boylston Street
Boston Mass.

All of us are going to put in for leaves tomorrow, but my hopes aren't too high because chances are pretty slim.

There really isn't anything else to say until I find out more about it. I'll probably ~~by~~ write you again tomorrow.

Feeling Fine.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. Seems we had a little trouble over the phone on the address, sorry I took so much time. It was good to talk to you.

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

P.P. I finally got that box off to you and there's alot of stuff in it, but I guess you'd better save it all if you would.

P.S. I forgot to tell you about my diploma which I had sent to Backman's house by a friend at the base. We had no time to mail them. You'll find on the accompanying sheet of paper my final average, etc. I was surprised + delighted to find that I graduated Number 2 in our class of 66 with an average of 95.6. I know what Dad will say → why didn't you graduate first? – it was because I didn't take the school seriously enough – I didn't study at all. I'll enclose the graduation program.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY 4178-A

RECEIPT

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

OFFICE May 24 1945 DATE

Received from Gilbert W. Williams $ 25.00

Twenty five Dollars in payment of:

☐ Account for the month of _____ 19____

☒ Telegraphic Money Order

☐ Telegram or Cable

☐ Deposit on Collect Telegram
Returnable after 24 hours

☐ Account No. _____
For Remittance

To Clayton R. Williams S/C

At Atlantic City N.J.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

MONEY ORDER CHARGES PAID $ .74 flat

By R. Withers

Money by
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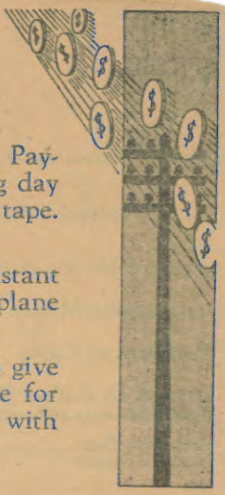

MONEY ORDERS—Telegraphed throughout the country. Payable during all open hours of Western Union offices during day or night, Sundays or holidays. Easy—Safe—Speedy. No red tape. Message to payee included at small extra cost.

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GIFT ORDERS—Solve the perplexing problem of what to give and combine sense and sentiment. Exchangeable anywhere for the gift most desired. Free sentiment for various occasions with each order.

ASK MANAGER FOR DETAILS

1 May 1945

Dearest Mom & Dad,

How does it feel to be back at the "B" street residence again? I enjoyed reading your swell description of your trip in the letter which came today. I'll bet you sure had a nice time at Uncle Allen's place. Your visit was sure appreciated by the Atlantic City branch of the family.

Well, school is coming to a close for us. Graduation, you know, is in two weeks — the 2nd of June. We should be assigned to our ships or stations sometime this week & we're hoping to ship out of Alameda, of course. There has been no more news concerning leaves, but if we do ship from the west coast we should manage to get a few days somehow. We have final tests in sole coming up but they shouldn't be too tough. in fact, we can take well

over the required 20 wpm - per minute now. Our class party is to be held this weekend (Friday night) after which we leave Sat. morning on a "48" and our destination will be Washington.

I went to New York to see Mary last weekend & it was sure a swell time. She's going to be leaving for S.L.C. next Monday so that was my last trip to New York. There was so much done for me that I was embarrassed - you see, Mrs. Bennion got tickets for Mary and I to see Oklahoma Sat. afternoon and we sure enjoyed it - but I couldn't ~~get~~ gether to take any money from me for them. Dad, I belive you know Dr. William Hunter from California - Mary's uncle. He and his wife were visiting in New York and they took Monie (Mary's Cousin) and Reed Nibley and Mary and I out Saturday night - we went to see Hildegarde.

It was a swell evening. Sunday after church Mary and I took a boat ride around Manhattan Island — saw the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, aircraft carriers, the Gripsholm — it was sure an interesting trip. We went to Sunday evening meeting and then back to Atlantic City for me.

That's about all from here for the time so I'll sign off.

Love,

Cloyt.

No mr. news concerning my future but I'll tell you as soon as anything happens.

Thinking of you.

Love,

Clay K.

Tuesday Night
April 1945

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Dick and I have kept in pretty close touch with each other and were sure looking forward to the 28th, weekend. I'll get those reservations for you and if you use them O.K., but we can cancel them if you don't.

I have more news for you on my progress in the Navy Air Corps. Six of us went to the air Station and three of us passed the physical + eye test while they gave. Our papers have been sent to Washington for further work, but I think we're pretty well "in" — no papers have been signed yet though.

My third enjoyable weekend in New York has just passed. You certainly meet a swell bunch of Salt Lake people at church every Sunday in New York.

Now - Wednesday Afternoon.

I received your letter of the 15th today and, in answer to your question, I will be here in Atlantic City

when you plan to arrive. I'm afraid this Navy Air deal will take quite a while to become effective. They aren't able to ~~get~~ give us any information as to when we will hear from them.

Just about all from here now

So — see you soon.

Love,

Clay

11 April 1945

Dear Rex,

You said in your last letter that things had really been popping for you, and now I can return the same comment in reference to my service life.

You see, we dug up a hidden bulletin around here concerning entrance into Navy Flight Training – a new program. Well, we (all of the Salt Lake City boys here) all applied through what they call request mast. Yesterday the first two mental tests were given to us at a Naval air Station about twelve miles from here. Twenty four of us from Radio School went over to take the test which turned out tougher than we expected. Only six of us passed – Devid Stewart + I were the only ones from Salt Lake. We were plenty surprised that Fred + Rook didn't make it + very sorry too. Anyway, today we took a third mental test and all six passed it. We are scheduled for our physical Saturday

morning. So far we haven't signed any papers or anything but here's the way the situation looks — if we pass the physical + get a release from the Coast Guard we'll be in. We would probably not be called for anywhere from a month to six months. A refresher course comes first in the training the length of which depends on the amount of education you've had. After that the regular Navy Flight Training program — all this training should take a little over a year. It sounds like a break for me if I can get it. We get plenty fed up with this school at times — can't see taking code (going nuts) for the rest of the war.

I don't know what to say about the Coast Guard Academy. I'm sure you can make it, though. Make sure you really want it because you'll be stuck for a plenty long time. The big point in favor of it is the college education + that's a perfect set up — I really don't know enough about it to give my

11 April 1945

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Well, how are arrangements for your trip coming. Dick and I are surf looking forward to seeing you so I hope it goes through. I've been trying to get what we call a 48 for the weekend when you will be in Philly. That will give me quite a while there. I don't know about arrangements here in A.C. because we are not able to get liberty on Monday nights and on Tuesday Night we only have from ~~11~~ 5 PM. to 10 PM. We'll see about it.

I have more news for you concerning my interest in the Navy Flight Training program. Twenty-four of us here at Radio School went over to the Naval Air Station to take two mental tests yesterday. Only six of us passed those - one fellow besides me from Salt Lake - Dwight Stewart. The six of us that passed went there again today for another mental which

we all passed. Our next test will be a physical exam slated for Saturday Morning. The program looks pretty good to me but I still haven't done anything definite – haven't signed any papers or anything. I'm very much in favor of the program, though. How about you?

That's about all the news from here tonight – I've got to study a bit seeing as I've missed a couple of mornings work.

Love,

Clay.

Monday Nite.

Dearest Mom + Dad,

Your news in the last letter sounds absolutely perfect to me. I immediately phoned Vide and we started making plans for a week end in Phily which would be the longest leave I could obtain. We could certainly have a great time if you do come.

Some more news came today — this had to do with the Naval Flight Training which we have been applying for. We are going to travel out of town tomorrow to take tests for admittance into this program. We haven't done anything definite yet, but I'll write you as soon as I find out something more. We don't know if they will even let us transfer but we're hoping. You see, this new program should be pretty solid — first comes a refresher course the length of which depends on the amount of education you have had, Then year college + preflight etc which is supposed to last a little

ove a year. Sounds pretty nice, don't you think.

This has been just a short note before I hit the sack.

So, I'll be looking for more news from you & I'll write you again soon.

Love,

Cloyd.

Monday Night

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Another swell weekend is over and I'm a thinkin' that I'm quite the lucky boy to be able to have such enjoyable liberty. It is sure nice to get away from this place into a different, better atmosphere.

School is going to be pretty tough this week I'm afraid. The code speed is ~~now~~ mounting to great heights which makes it sound very fast to us. This week we are copying 17 words per minute and our tests will come over at 16 w.p.m. this Friday. Last week I did well on my tests getting 3 solids in code, a solid and two 98's in Watch Standing (which surprised me happily.) I hope it comes out as nice this week as it did last.

You asked in your letter about what is a head for us. Well, we have nine weeks remaining - (this is our 16 th). We are scheduled to graduate on the 2nd of June after which we do not ~~know~~ know our plans. It has been ~~usually~~ the procedure around here in the past that the members of the graduating class have some choice of the ships that they will get on, but everyone tries for the best ones so we don't know what we'll be getting

we just hope that some of us may stay together. Our instruction now is really very practical. Last week in the Basic Material class I learned how to obtain a bearing using the direction finding equipment. You are required to take one in 1 min. 15 sec.

In Watch Standing we are starting now to tune in the transmitting stations around here and copy regular messages that the Navy sends out. Every thing is leading to make our training as practical as possible.

We don't know anything about leave after school and we probably won't know until we get one — but things don't look too good as far as leaves go.

Are you really against the Navy Flight Training Program? I think it would be a swell thing to get into. You see, you take a short refresher course and then start your years training to be a Navy Pilot. I'd really be happy if I could get in that program, but tell me what you think about it. We haven't done much about it yet.

I'll have to sign off now.

Love,

Clayt.

(over

P.S. The pic're you sent Dad, as swell - Thanks.
and Congratulations on being honored in Rotary.

Friday Morning
3 A.M.

Dearest Mom and Dad,

I believe I'll have time to drop you a note while on watch this morning.

The Easter bunny arrived yesterday afternoon and he was certainly welcomed to Atlantic City. Your swell goodies were as good as ever and everything hit the spot — Ask my roomates. Aunt Rae sent me a nice box also — so my easter will be plenty happy. Those "T" shirts are nice and will certainly come in handy. And about the bathing suit it is nice but I wonder if I sent it back you could get credit on it 'cause I do like my yellowish one which is in one of my drawers there. I hope it's O.K. with you to send me that one. I'd really appreciate it.

I just wanted to thank you very much for your presents and hope you had a Happy Easter. I'll write about the information that you asked for in your letter next time.

Well, so long.

Love,

Cheryl.

Monday Night
26 March 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

The big weekend is over and I certainly had a perfect time. Everybody was really swell to me. I guess I'd better give you a detailed description, huh.

I started for the big city at 1:40 PM on Saturday arriving in New York about 5 o'clock. I don't know if Uncle Clayt told you or not, but he made arrangements for me at the Pennsylvania Hotel by sending the manager a letter and sending me a letter of introduction. It was a reservation that he made for me and it couldn't have been a nicer thing to have. I stayed in a swell little room which only cost me $3.00. I'm going write Uncle Clayt and thank him for the nice thing he did. Well, I took a shower + had a sandwich + phoned Mary + she asked me up to her Aunt's place. I met her Aunt + Uncle and her Mother was there. We decided to step out so we went dancing at the Pennsylvania Hotel (Cafe Rouge) - Jimmy Dorsey was playing there - Had a good time on Sugar Elle. It turned out a perfect evening. I attended a very nice Sunday School which was held at 10:30 on Sunday Morning. Quite a few Salt Lakers attend - some young kids

that I ha. known at school Pat Pixton (Alan's younger sister) and Margaret Cornwall are two others. Frank Wise was there too, and he wanted to be remembered to you. Mrs. Bennion had invited myself and Richard Smith (from S.L.C.) to Sunday dinner which we certainly appreciated + enjoyed. He is in Midshipman's School nearly ready to be commissioned an Ensign. Mary and I walked around Central Park the rest of the day, that is, until time for evening church meeting which we attended. After church I took Mary home + caught my train for Atlantic City. Boy, I sure had a wonderful time. I've been the luckiest guy since I joined the service.

As for the work here, I like our new classes pretty well. This week in Material I am learning to take Direction finder bearings. We are now working with the real equipment which makes things more interesting.

Mom, I want to thank you for the swell box you sent and the box of candy which arrived yesterday. Everything tasted delicious.

Nothing much new has come up lately so I'll sign off now.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. My money is holding out OK, dad.

Sunday Afternoon
18 March 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

I phoned Mary last night from here and had short talk with her and I plan to visit New York next week-end. This week I've been on fire watch and it hasn't been very bad & they have let us out to play football in the sunshine for a few hours. The weather is really getting swell and we feel much better because of it.

The week ahead of us will be different from what we have had before. Last Friday + Sat we had two finals in Procedure so we're all finished up in there. By the way we gave our instructor, Jeff Banasaik RM 2c, an identification bracelet — he was our favorite & really a wonderful guy. Now in the time before set aside for Procedure we will take a class called watch standing, which is just about like standing regular watches. This weekend we'll have tests in Code Drill, a final in Theory and some code tests in watch standing with the typewriter + using a pencil. Also we begin copying plain language which is harder the the mixed code (QAR3N) which we have been taking. These new subjects ~~[illegible]~~ are not

going to make it any easier because we'll be taking so much code during the day. You see our schedule will now be: 7:30 to 9:30 code practice, 9:30 to 11:30 Theory, 12:30 to 1:30 Procedure Drill - which is mostly code, and in the same room 1:30 to 2:30 more mixed code. Then 2:30 to 4:30 Watch Standing which will be different but still more code.

I forgot to tell you that it is not still Sunday Afternoon as it reads in the corner but I am now standing my second ~~[illegible]~~ night of my watch. Saturday night I had a 2 to 4 AM + this one is a 4 to 6 AM. I didn't draw very goods ones this week.

Atlantic City is beginning to ~~[illegible]~~ wake up as the good weather is arriving. The Yankees have started their spring training but as yet I haven't been able to see them. They work out not very far from the Morton. (That's the name of this hotel in case you didn't know). All of the odd little shops are opening along the Boardwalk and Jimmy Dorsey is coming to Steel Pier, about a block from here, on Easter. In a while we will start wearing our whites which isn't very good because they are so hard to keep clean.

I don't have any news from Phily this week as I was playing football yesterday and forgot to phone Dick. I'll give him

a ring tonight. That about wrings it up for this week. Keep me (we get "gang" letters) well informed on what Doug says in his letters, will ya?

That's all — Roger Over & Out

Love,
Clay.

P.S. I'll send you our school magazine — The Bug, in the mail.

Well, that about winds it up for today.

Love,

Clay

P.S. thanks for the offer but my money situation is still O.K.

5 March 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm a little late in writing you again this week, but yesterday (Sunday) I was busy all day writing a talk for meeting. I guess everything turned out O.K. Our Sunday Evening meetings really make us feel good.

School is beginning to stiffen on us especially in our Code Class which is the most important part of our training. Today it really started to almost run away with us. A new, shorter spacing between characters has made the 12 w.p.m which we are now taking seem much faster than the 11 words per minute which had longer spaces. The next few weeks will be the time when a great part of the students will flunk out. Out of the 12 original men in our room there are now only 7 left. Two of the fellows ~~have~~ changed to another room but the remaining 3 flunked out. We have only two weeks of Theory remaining and three weeks of Procedure after which Material + Procedure Drill will take their place.

You asked about the six new kids from S.L.C. They were all our friends at East High. Dave + Don Donlogg, Dewirl Stewart, Don Bradshaw a former BAX now a BOΠ, Bryant Hawkins, and

Dennis Aoff" ult are there, yes. They are all fine boys + we play Saturday afternoon basketball games + attend church on Sunday nights. Dale Le Chemmant — you remember him — is headed Atlantic City way, we believe, and it will be nice to welcome another Salt Lake buddy. His friend, Morris Kjar, whom he enlisted with didn't make the school and will soon be shipping out of Alameda on an L.C.I., which is really too bad.

I received your delicious gift — the Martha Washington candy — the other day and it certainly hit the spot. It made me think of the swell party Mr. + Mrs. Richards gave out in Bountiful. Thanks a Million.

Don't worry about me because I'm feeling fine — plenty of money, thanks, and there is nothing I need.

Not much news tonight as usual so I'll sign off.

Love,

Clayt.

Feb. 26, 1945

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Atlantic City news is as uneventful as ever this week. Same old routine which we have had for the past ten weeks has kept us only fairly busy. I was out yesterday (Sunday) afternoon and so I forgot to phone the bro in Phily, and so I'll not be able to relay to you any news which he might have. Although, I believe he will travel to Connecticut next weekend — quite a travelling man.

Last night Fred and I attended a very fine church meeting — the best we've had yet. It was sort of a testimony meeting and all those who were there told how they happened to be L.D.S. or bore there testimonies. There were some very interesting stories given. Fred & I were assigned to give talks for next weeks meeting. This Chief Peterson, whom I have told you about, has treated us swell & we sure like him — and his wife. We spent the remaining part of the evening at the cinema — "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

I'm getting right up in the world in copying code. This is our eleventh week and so our required code speed is 11 words per minute. The other day

I got extra hold and tried to take 15 wpm. and I was pretty successful. All of our classes are rather boring, but I think after the 14th week, when we change subjects, they will be much more interesting. Right now in theory we are learning on paper the operation + construction of a Tuned Radio Frequency Receiver. Later on in Material we work with the real radio equipment which will be O.K.

I thought I might mention to you, Dad, that the Trib hasn't come for a couple of weeks. But you don't have to renew it because the fellow here gets it everyday. Didn't want you to be paying for something you're not getting.

You've probably heard that Mary may come to New York to go to school for a few months which would be very nice, don't you think?

Well, gotta knock off now. So so long.

Love. Clay.

Monday afternoon
19 Feb. 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just got [illegible] your [illegible] long last letter and I'm [illegible] for waiting so long. I talked with Dick yesterday — the regular Philly — [illegible] [illegible] and he [illegible] a certain [illegible] you. That day will be either Sundays or [illegible] you will hear from me at least every Monday or Tuesday. Dick said that [illegible] Philly was [illegible] enjoyable [illegible] must have a fine time. He [illegible] to Canada right away. [illegible] he said was an inspection tour.

You [illegible] about the pencil and fine [illegible] I'm using. My reason for using it is that I'm now in a Procedure class and we're [illegible] busy — just reviewing last weeks test.

Tonight our class basketball team has [illegible] game. I guess I'll play a lot [illegible] much better when you can get this recreation. We hadn't been doing much of it before.

[illegible]

Our [illegible]

[illegible] you happy

[illegible]

Guard cannot get on them. Or a biggest and best deal would be a Coast Guard manned transport. But, if we can get our rates it would sure be swell because a Radio man has a good deal around ship — he's not bothered by anyone else and he's more or less his own boss. The seamen have heavy lives aboard most ships so we'll feel pretty lucky if we get to sea with a rate.

Your box of Milky Ways just arrived and they were awfully good. The fellows here know you're a couple of good sons. Thanks a million for everything.

Tell ya how.

Love,

Clay.

Tuesday Afternoon
13 February 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'll bet I've started to write you twenty times only to be interrupted and have start all over again. I have so much to thank you for I'll complete this one for sure.

It was swell of you to send my shoes — I mean those wonderful new shoes, they are perfect, and with such speed. I've used them a few times already and they fit perfectly. The candy and cookies + nuts which accompanied them were as swell as ever. Thanks very much.

That cute picture folder arrived yesterday and it sure seemed good to see all of the excellent pictures in it. A very clever idea. That's a swell picture of you, Mom and how about one of you, Dad.

I just returned from the dental clinic where I had two teeth filled + was given another appointment for Thursday for more. They really have a fine set of dental officers here and a good program worked out so that all of our teeth will be in first class condition when we leave here. They sure run you through in quick time. I had those two fillings put in in about twenty minutes. Not too painless.

Our trip to New York was a big success and we came back feeling much better having been away from this place for two days. You see, we luckily received a 48 hour liberty instead of the usual 36. Leaving here at about 8 on Saturday morning we arrived in the big city at noon. After hunting for a room for some time and with no success, we began planning for some entertainment. At 99 Park Avenue free tickets are given to Service Men for different "goings on" about town. We stood in line some time and received four passes to the stage play "Dear Ruth" for 8:30. It was really a knockout, even funnier than "Life With Father". Before going to this play we saw a matinee performance of the Rockettes at the Radio City music hall which was swell too. It was about 11:00 when we got out of the play so we then went over to the Stage Door Canteen which was pretty nice. Quite an evening for the small town boys from S.L.C. huh! And pretty low cost. We stayed up pretty late and so we slept until about noon on Sunday. We did a bit of sightseeing Sunday Afternoon — Empire State Bldg — and took an early train home so that we would be in fair condition for Monday morning code. It turned out a swell weekend.

You don't need to worry about me if you don't get a letter for pretty long times like you used to about Doug in Texas. I'll write you more often though, at least once a week. My colds is better & I'm trying to get over to the gym more often. You get pretty loggy sitting down all day.

The conversation last ~~x~~ week on Dick's phone was really a morale builder. How are you two getting along in the big white house? Dick + Mare are certainly wonderful to me when I visit them — it's almost like home. And little Ann is with no exceptions the cutest baby I've seen in a long time.

That about winds up the news from Atlantic City so I'll sign off. Letters are still coming OK.

Love,

Clayt.

Monday Night
29 January 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

Gee! Mom, your box which arrived today was sure a surprise — and a very pleasant one. Everything in it is certainly swell and with 12 fellows here in the room nothing will be wasted, you can imagine. Thanks very much for being so swell to me.

It's been quite a while since I wrote you, and the main reason for the long delay is that this place is so bad that there's no news, nothing doing here. We go through exactly the same routine every day and it's plenty boring. Two fellows in my room were notified today that they had flunked out and it's really too bad because these guys really wanted to get their rate and they're plenty nice kids. But they just couldn't get the code. They have flunked the last two weekly code tests at 5 and 6 words per minute so they were notified of their disenrollment and will probably ship out soon. The four of us are still getting along fine in our work here and certainly hope to finish. They've been talking to us about H.F.D.F. (High Frequency Direction Finder) after graduation.

Dad, I went over to the pay office and had my bond correction made. Glad to note that you received the bond. And Mom, I was very happy to receive your letter. It was a swell one.

I'd like to ask a favor of you now. We're starting class basketball teams here, and I wonder if you would send me my basketball shoes which should be in the closet or someplace. I would certainly appreciate it. They are the ones with the high tops.

I talked to Dick yesterday on the phone and he asked me to come over + visit him next weekend. He is planning to take Mare to New York the following Monday for a few days vacation. We're planning to go there in a couple of weeks.

Now more news today.

Love,

Clay.

Adele Please return quickly.
Dad

Sat. Day Afternoon
Jan. 20, 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

You probably wonder why I am staying in on a Saturday Afternoon when I regularly get out on liberty. Well, I've really had a bad break but I've cooled off now. In my last letter to you I mentioned that I had ~~a~~ 4 to 6 watch that night – that watch proved disasterous to me. I wasn't awakened until five after four and so I was 15 minutes late in reporting. The fellow at the desk hadn't put our names on the list to be awakened. We ~~we~~ myself and two roomates – were "put on the books" and appeared before the Executive Officer, Lt Comdr. Ireland, next morning. He took the word of the Petty Officer at the desk that we had been awakened and gave us five days restriction – so we moaned because we knew we hadn't been called. The Exec. then gave us a Captains Mast and we appeared before our skipper, Commdr. Hustleton. A Captains Mast is a very serious thing if you lose the case. Hustleton took the word of Petty Officer who ~~took~~ was saving his own neck. They said

they couldn't make a mistake at T's desk. ~~But~~ I don't know where the ~~mix~~ mix up was, but we certainly were robbed. The skipper dismissed the case - didn't enter this on our record - but gave us five days ~~days~~ restriction with extra duty and said we'd get in a lot of trouble if we ever came before him again. Everyone around here agrees that it's the dirtiest deal they've ever heard of - getting punished for something we didn't do. I've really never been sore before, but you can imagine how I felt then - but there's nothing you can do - unless you wanted to take it to a Deck Court which would be silly. The fellow who was supposed to awaken us admits he did not ~~do what that~~ get us up but the skipper said it was our duty to be there whether wakened or not - I guess we're supposed to buy an alarm clock. These last few days have been pretty poor ones for me. I thought I'd have trouble with the code test because I didn't keep my mind on it for those two days, but I cracked out a "solid" on the test and typed 30 words per ~~min~~ minute in type. It's really all over now and this

restriction isn't so bad, but they post your name and offense on the bulletin board as an example to the other fellows of how ~~not~~ not to "foul up". The officers here are sad cases — hotel men. This Ireland guy sent us to the C.O. without even hearing our story. Oh! what a drop There ain't no justice in this service. While I'm groaning I'll answer your question about the food — I just hope it improves because its been lousy for 2 straight weeks. Bell & Cope, the owners of the hotel, are really cleaning up the money, I guess.

Now I will trace a day through as you asked. We get up at 6:00, ~~show~~ wash, dress, clean rooms, and have chow at 6:45 to 7:15. School starts at 7:30 and our first period from 7:30 to 9:30 is in Code Drill, Typing and now we have sending Drill in that period. After a 15 minute recess we go to theory until 11:30 when we eat our lunch. Back to school again at 12:30 when we ~~have~~ have another code period just like the one at 9:30. 2:30 to 2:45 recess and then we go to Procedure, rather interesting subject, until 4:25.

From 4:25 to 4:30 its Mail Call - the best part of the day. Free 'till 5:30 at which time we have dinner. Up until last week we would attend night classes from 6:30 to 8:00 and I'm sure glad they're over. Now we are free after chow, but we must be in our "sacks" by 10:00. And lights out.

You will notice on my envelope that I am now a Seaman Second Class (S 2/c) instead of the old A.S (R.). It really isn't a very big boost, only 4 bucks more each month and 2 stripes instead of one.

I received a short note from Dick in which he told me to phone him on Sunday afternoons - a little deal thru you, Dad. That's very nice.

This letter has had an awful lot of gripes in it, but I'm really feeling O.K. now. It was just the first time I'd never been able to turn to someone - there was just nothing I could do but let them take me for a ride. If I'd have carried it any farther and beat the "old man" I would never have any peace

Thank for the "nest egg" you sent.

Love,

Clay.

Sunday Afternoon

I forgot to mail this letter last night so thought I'd drop a line having talked with Dick this afternoon.

I didn't know what to think when I heard about Uncle Ted. I sure hope they don't take it too hard. When I think of how Sue loves her Dad - golly it's sure a shame. And Aunt Edna.

You'll probably think I'm sort of droopy the way I moaned in this letter but I'm in tip top shape now.

It's really swell to talk to Dick on Sunday. Thanks a million

Love

Clay.

Cute letter. Sure was along the same line. Never remember Clair so burned up.

Tuesday Night
Jan. 16, 1945

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, this week the orchids go to ~~them~~ Mister of the white house on the corner of 10th and "B". I think that I do remember your age, Dad, but I'll keep it a secret. You shouldn't feel bad about your age because there are several fellows going to school here who look much older than you — it may be just the effects from the school. I hope you have a Happy Birthday with lots of licorice and tie's — maybe a flashy bathrobe.

The last couple of days have been our first tough ones in our school work. The code speed has been stepped up and we have started to send code. Theory and Procedure are getting a little less boring, thank heavens. Last Saturday they announced the names of 15 fellows who had already flunked out — no one we knew. ~~We~~ All four of us are getting along pretty well so far.

Last Sunday night we had another L.D.S. meeting at the England General Hospital. Fred was appointed Secretary of the group and yours truly was named Chorister — even though I don't know much about it. The meetings are rather interesting. We discuss parts of the Doctrine + Covenants, sing church songs, and have the Sacrament.

I'll fill my weekly watch tonight from 4 to 6 in the School Building — not such "hot" hours.

The weather here is sort of lousy now. In fact we haven't seen the sun since we arrived. Not much snow falls, but we get quite a bit of cold and rain.

Our liberties haven't been too exciting lately. We usually go to a show and to one of the nice M. S. O.'s here.

Radio School isn't a very newsy place — same routine every day — It's hard to "Sit" 5 more months of it.

Have to go now.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. over.

P.S. I hear something about Spence Falls being reported missing. What a blow it must be to Aunt Ruth & Uncle Spence.

Thursday Night
Jan. 11, 1945

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Well, tonight we had our last night class and it will sure be fine to be rid of them. More time to ourselves and I will get more letters to you.

This is sort of a Happy Birthday note to you, Mom. I don't remember the number this year — couldn't be over 30, could it? I hope you have a very pleasant 13th this year.

Thanks a million, Dad, for the "five" you sent. I really did need it, but I'm going to pay you back as soon as I get on my feet. I received your letter today which relayed Doug's "V" mail Christmas greeting to the "gang." I'm going to write him, tonight, also. I hope he gets a good break "over there." Nice about Wood getting his promotion.

School has been just about the same — tests in the morning in Type and code and Saturday morning

we'll have Theory and Proce re Exams. Procedure is about the toughest of the classes. It deals with callsigns and the details in sending and receiving messages. Rather interesting, but there is too much memory work. I can take at least 5 and probably 6 or 7 words a minute in code now. Our test tomorrow will be at the rate of 4 and 5 w.p.m. Classes get awfully boring (2 hrs. in length) but on the whole I like it here and consider myself darn lucky. Some of the boys have been waiting 2 years to go to school.

They're sending the graduating classes all over. The last boys who graduated went to Greenland, Alaska, Hawaii, and some went on ship, which I think is the best deal.

I hafta be in my "sack" at 10 so I'll climb in the shower now.

Happy Birthday, Mom.

Love,

Clayt.

Tuesday Night
Jan. 2.

Dear Aunt Mae and Uncle Chaut,

I have a few minutes between watch patrols so I thought I'd drop you a short note if the pen holds up.

First I want to thank you a million times for such a perfect birthday present. I'll certainly like to use it for our dances at home — meet look pretty good. It's really the smartest set I've ever seen. And thanks too, for your Christmas present to me. I'm sure I'll love you to me.

We are now on our way to going into "nets". Today (as every day except Sunday) we have five hours of code practice. By the time we graduate we are required to take 20 words per minute "solid", which means no mistakes, seems awfully fast compared with the 2 or 3 words we now copy.

Atlantic City is nicely situated for when we get our wings — about 2 hours to Philadelphia — 2 to New York or Washington D.C. We've been Philly and are looking forward to a weekend in

New York.

Well, I have to go to complete my watch.

Thanks a lot, again.

Love,

Clayt.

P.S. This would be some town in the summer. We're right on the Boardwalk — swimming, etc.

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

Wednesday Night
December 27

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, the big holiday is over and it was sure a swell one for me.

I arrived in Phily Saturday afternoon and after a little shopping I met Dick. We went to Ann and Scotty's cute little place — they had opened their presents which were spread around their tree — and from there proceeded to Dick's house. Rick gave us a big greeting, and I guess I don't have to tell Mom, but that little Ann is the cutest baby I've seen. She sits up and shakes her head and crawls a little, too. We put the lights on the tree that night and turned in. It sure seemed good to see Buck and sit around and talk with him. We had our big dinner Sunday night — Mare prepared a wonderful turkey with all the trimmings. We fixed Rick's toys up — made him a complicated tinker-toy set up.

He had a swell time as he told you on phone. Boy! was he excited all day of Christmas. Dick and Mare had a nice shaving soap and lotion set for me plus a blue scarf and a snapshot wallet. Golly! I never expected anything like that. Dick has probably written you about all of his and Mare's gifts.

It was plenty tough for me to return to the base after such a wonderful time. I wore some of Dick's soft clothes while I was there and what a big, soft bed. Really! I'm one awful lucky kid.

I guess I haven't told you much about school so — we have in our usual day; first, the inevitable reville which is followed by room cleaning and chow. At 1:30 we begin classes and we mixed code and type for 2 hours. From 9:30 to 11:30 we have Theory followed by lunch. 12:30 to 2:30 is two more hours of mixed code + type. At 2:30 we have theory again and get out at 4:30. These damn classes really get pretty boring. — and then, and then, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thurs, and Fridays we have a mixed code and type class from 6:30 to 8 at night.

They're starting to send us battly already. I got 100% in our first theory test which was given last Saturday morning. We have tests every Sat. morning and Captain's inspection every Friday.

Would you please sort of explain to me the description of my gift to Mary? It might be a good idea to know. Thanks a million, Adele, if you are still in S. Lake.

I haven't received your box yet, folks, but I'm sure it will be here soon.

It was swell to talk to you on Xmas morning — hope you all had as nice a time as I did.

Time for bed now.

Love,

Clayt

We put the lights on the tree that night and turned in. It sure seemed good to see Buck and sit around and talk with him. We had our big dinner Sunday night — Mare prepared a wonderful turkey with all the trimmings. We fixed Rick's toys up — made him a complicated tinker-toy set up.

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

Thursday Evening
December 21

Dear Folks,

Happy Christmas to all you all at 489 "B." Street. I hope you have a fine holiday, and I'm sure you will with Dorgie, Wood, and Adele there.

I have the 8 to 10 Crow's Nest watch tonight so I'll jot down some notes to you in between patrols.

I felt pretty embarrassed when I read that you had to call Mary to find out my address. Seems I sent her's Air Mail. — a, sorry about that.

I received your swell letter, Dad, and, golly!, all I can say is thanks a million for the War Bond. My Christmas will really be perfect being at Dick and Mares — Ann and Scott will be there, too.

I'm going to go nuts in the near future if the classes are as bad as the "salts" say they are. They told me a fellow in a code class last week - in the

middle of a test jumped outof his seat, tore his earphones off, and ran out of the room yelling, "I'm a motor boat," "I'm a motor boat." I hope its not quite that bad, but right now its seems im-possible to take code at 20 words a minute which is a graduation requirement. I'm getting to be quite an accomplished typist by now.

Guess I'd better check in, but I'm sure looking forward to Christmas with Dick.

Love,

Cloyt

Merry Christmas ——.

United States Coast Guard Training Station
Atlantic City, New Jersey

RADIO SCHOOL

Monday Night
December 18

Dear Mom,

I guess I'm up to my usual last minute stuff — sort of in a tight spot. I haven't had a chance to get anyone anything for Christmas I've put it off so long. I wondered if I ~~asked you~~ enclosed 20 bucks you could help me out - I guess you're my last hope. But if you could just something for Adele and Wood, they've been so wonderful and Dougie, too! And spend about 3 or 4 on Rex and get something nice for you and Dad. It's really an awful lot to ask, but just if you have time.

I just talked to Dick on the phone and he wants me to come over for Christmas which would be perfect. I don't know how a kid could be so lucky as I am.

I'll enclose in this letter a note which I would like Adele if she would to put with the present to Mary.

School started today and I think it's going to be pretty fine. We had two typing classes and two theory classes - very interesting. It's a swell chance for me to learn how to type - I never did take it in school.

Just another quick note, but hey it sort of quit.

Love,

Clay V.

(?) Insurance
Allotment
Bonds

Saturday Afternoon
Nov. 25, 1944

Dear Dad,

I talked to Adele last night after you phoned her and she told me everything you said. I was sure sorry to hear you have been sick. I guess Mom had better hurry back to old C. L. and get you well. I didn't mean to worry you about my sinus 'cause it's all over now and I'm feeling O.K. Thanks alot for taking care of the flowers for me. If you'll send me the cost I'll mail you the money in my next letter.

Adele and Wood have really been too nice to us. Our Thanksgiving day was perfect. Had a wonderful turkey dinner and sat around afterwards in her soft easy chairs. Before dinner we took a trip to the zoo and seashore with Dougie — he sure showed us around.

Sunday Morning You asked Adele about the school setup so I'll tell you how things stand right now, but they change every day. When I wrote you about schools last I had Radio Tech as first choice with Sound and Radar following. Since

then I have seen the classification officers. (I had to sneak over there). They told me about the closing of Radio Tech School which I really wanted, but since there would be a quota soon for Radio (Operator) School. You would leave here by the 11th of December for 6 months training in New Jersey. So I changed Radio to my first choice in hopes that I might be one of those chosen. It is supposed to be the best Coast Guard School - you all, most of the others are Navy. A new school which I think is called Loran (something like Radar and Sound) is opening in Connecticut. There may be a chance of getting in that, too.

The big parade for which we have been waiting for 5 weeks finally came yesterday morning. Our company escorted the colors ~~marching~~ in front of all the men and officers on the island. They said we looked very good, but when the judging came (when we passed the reviewing stand) we must have slipped up 'cause we didn't win the honors and the 48 hour pass we had been waiting for.

Monday Night
Nov. 27 I have been interrupted every time I've started to write, but I'll try to finish up now. I will get up at 4:00 tomorrow morning for another one of those watches which I have had too many of, lately — so I'll hit the "sack" early tonight.

We went out for our second rowing lesson this morning. It's really a lot of fun, but we haven't gone out into the deep water — just around the island.

Yesterday was liberty day for us. We saw a movie (Sunday) and went to a free dinner at the Navy Mother's Club. We've been to the Stagehoar Canteen a couple of times — it's a swell place.

The final shot in the arm was given us today. We've been having them on and off since we came — one a week or more. We've had them for Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow fever, and Small Pox — a total of 6.

If we don't get in any school I think we won't be here very much longer. In your letter which I received today you thought we'd be here 'till the middle of January. I don't think we will be — the way things are going

now.

Tell me more dope about Daddy, will you? We may get a 48 hour liberty next weekend (1:00 Saturday to 7:00 Monday Morning) — a nice birthday present for me. I'll ~~write you~~ phone you as your Dad — Sunday Night at 8:00 (7:00) My time, I'll go to bed now.

Love,

Cloyd

P.S. Sorry a mixed up letter, huh?

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Nov. 21, 1944

Dear Dad,

Boy! Adele and Wood sure showed us a time last Friday night. We had a delicious dinner and the "Winged Victory" show after was excellent. Thank you for everything and the phone call, too. The boys certainly thought Adele and Wood were swell people. They've invited and insisted that we come to their house for Thanksgiving dinner and we accepted but we don't want to wear out our welcome. It sure sounds wonderful.

We took a 14 mile hike yesterday into the hills around Oakland, carrying guns, G.I. helmets, cartridge belts, etc. We had a nice lunch which was carried up on a truck and played games afterwards. It was really a swell time all but for one thing.

That thing is my darned old sinus trouble. I missed liberty last night because of it and this letter will be too short because of it. They are treating me for it at sick bay and I hope they clear it

up soon.

I mailed a letter to Dick's place to try to catch Mom on her way. I think she will receive it.

Well, to tell you the truth, the real reason for this letter is to ask you a favor. I would really ask Mom if she was home, but I'd appreciate it if you would do it in her absence. You see, it's Mary Lois Sharp's birthday on Monday, November 27 — that's next Monday (I guess you know). Well, do you think you could send her some flowers — say a dozen roses or anything you think would be O.K. about Monday afternoon? I don't know exactly what kind of flowers, but you could send me the bill or cost in your next letter.

I'll write you again soon — a long letter.

Love,

Cloyd

P.S. Enclosed is a card which I would like you to send with the flowers. Thanks.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

19 November 1944
Sunday Morning 0400

Dear Mom and Dick and Mare,

Well, here it is 4:00 oclock in the morning and I'm on what they call Messenger or Telephone Watch. I thought this would be a good chance to drop you a line and try to catch Mom on her way back from her tour of the country. It sure sounded like a wonderful trip from the schedule Dad sent me.

Adele and Wood certainly showed us (Dick, Morrie, Fred, Clayt) a swell time last Friday night. It really couldn't have been any better. We took the "A" train from here and met them in Frisco at 6:30. For dinner we went to Julius' Castle, a nice place overlooking the bay, and it was sure delicious. Wood drove us through Chinatown on the way to the Opera house which is really a beautiful place (that is the Opera House not Chinatown). "Winged Victory", a play put on by 300 men of the AAF, was about the best thing I've

seen. It really turned out to be the best week we've spent since we hit this place. Besides all of this Adele got hold of Ked on the phone and we had a swell few minutes of conversation.

The school situation right now looks still unsettled. My first choice is Radio Technician's school and classification told me I had qualified but I'm not sure of it. My second choice is Sound School and I passed a test last week which they gave ten of us to see if we were qualified for that. I'm trying to get over to see these men and get all of this straightened out.

Our classwork which takes up most of the day is still excellent and Ordnance (hooray) is one of the best of these. So far we have learned to "field strip" the following; 45's (pistols), the Carbine, the '03 and the Thomson and Reising sub-machine guns. We are promised the firing of the underlined but as yet we have only shot a few rounds in 22 rifles. In our schedule for Monday we are to have at [redacted] 8:00 - a test in Signaling on Morse Code, Semaphore, and International Flags and Pennants; at 9:00 - Ordnance, in the

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Armory; at 10:00 - a Chemical Warfare class out in the field (we may get our first gasing - only tear gas, though); at 11:00 - Seamanship (probably row around the island or talk about buoys, tackles, etc); 12:00 - Chow - (good lunches, specially); 1:00 Canteen call (we have to march over and back) and Drill (marching) 2:00 - Phys. Ed (we have exercises, Basketball, Boxing, etc) 3:00 - Airplane recognition (good class on Jap and U.S. planes) 4:00 - Mail call and 5:00 Chow. I sort of outlined for you a day's activity. You can see that we get a pretty rounded program.

Now that we are getting (or supposed to get) liberty every third night the time really flys by. It's like a parole from prison sort of, so we get plenty angry when some guys "foul up" the whole platoon's chances for getting out. Some guys have been restricted for gambling, which is against the rules of the Navy, which I've found we are in, practically

I guess I had better get another letter written before my time is up — 0600.

Love,

Clay

P.S. Say hello to Ann and Rick and tell him to be sure to join the Coast Guard.

P.P.S. Adele has invited us over for Thanksgiving dinner. Sure nice of her, but I hope we're not overdoing her welcome. She insisted though.

Mom, your last box was as swell as the first one you sent. Thanks a million,

Sunday Nite
Nov. 12, 1944

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just returned from San Francisco where we saw our Coast Guard Sea Lions beaten by the Saint Mary's Preflight team. The game was held at Kezar stadium and they took all of the "boots" over in a truck convoy. It seemed darn swell to get out of this place even though it was for only a short time. There was some good playing in the game - Woudenburg from Denver starred fro P.F. - and the snappiest drill team I have ever seen put on a half-time show.

Our first liberty is scheduled for Tuesday and we are plenty happy about that.

Fred and Dick and I have been made color guards for about a week or two. We with 9 other fellows get dressed up night and morning to put up and take down the flag.

Last Friday I was pulled out of class with 10 other fellows to take a sound test for Sound School rating. I had made Sound School my second choice and they said they chose those with high grades to take Friday's test. I do not yet know

the ontco e. The classifica"n Officers told a fellow here to change his first choice which was Radio Tech to Electricians Mate. I don't know if they have closed Radio Tech or not but he said he hadn't had enough Mathematics to qualify. I'll have to find out more about it.

The "boots" are sure flowing in here now. We completed the 2nd Platoon of B Company which was the first Co. on the island and since then a full C Company has been formed and a D Company has started.

Our choir is improving daily and we sang pretty well in Church this morning. Church is really very good.

I have to study now for a signally test we are having tomorrow so I'll sign this short letter.

Love,

Clayt

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Saturday Evening
Oct. 28

Dear Mom and Dad,

I talked to Adele on the phone Thursday nite and she told me of the swell plans she has for our first liberty, which should come about Nov. 18, we hope. She wants to take us to a play that night and show us the sights during the day. That would certainly be swell. They are planning on coming over to the island tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon for a short visit at the gate!

Today we started the morning off with a parade, but it was not the official one that I told you it was. I believe we will compete for the 48 hour pass in next Saturday's parade.

Saturday afternoons and Sundays are generally our rest periods, but today, rather this afternoon, we did our weeks washing. Shirts, hats, pants, shorts, and socks are the things I washed today.

I received your fine letter and the carbon copy of ~~Adele's~~ the one to Adele and it's sure is a pleasure to hear from home. (I've changed in respect to the carbon copies. They're O.K.). I'm going to write plenty of letters to everyone

Monday Evening - I'm on 2-hour watch now → (6 to 8)

I was called for some work detail Sat. nite so I will finish now what I started then.

~~Monday~~ Sunday afternoon Adele, Dougie and Wood drove out here for a visit. It was sure wonderful to see them. We talked for about an hour about Coast Guard, Home, and my future here. They all look swell and Dougie is over his cold. ~~The~~ Adele brought me a box of cookies and oranges which were very nice.

This morning we were given shots for Typhoid fever and we are feeling the terrible effects of them now. ~~So~~ Awful sore arm and slight fever - that's the condition we're in tonight.

Our first real classwork began today with a lecture on all the gases used in Chemical warfare and it was very interesting

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

esting. An easy ~~qu~~ quiz followed it.

After that class we began our airplane recognition course which is even better. We take up each of the most used planes, discussing their appearance, speed, motors, etc. For recognition they flash these planes on a screen for 1/100th of a second and its sure tough to pick them our correctly. Today he flashed ~~a~~ P-38's and ~~the~~ Black Widow's and it was difficult to tell them apart.

At 4:00 PM (1600) everyday we have mail call ~~and~~ today I was very pleased to receive both of your notes and the clippings were swell too. I also got a letter from Mary. This mail call sure bolsters the old moral.

Today is the first poor weather we have had so it has rained nearly all day.

Well, that's about all the news up to now so I'll sign off.

Love,

Clay

P.S. By the way, I told you in one letter how much I disliked our platoon leader. I've changed my mind about him. He's really OK.

P.P.S. Write me any news about Doug, won't you.

P.P.P.S. I forgot to put a change in my address on the envelope but it helps if you will put Co. 9B3 Pl 2 Barrad ? The Pl. 2 stands for Platoon 2 and it makes it easier to separate our mail from Pl 1

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Saturday Afternoon

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here it is Saturday already. This week has certainly slipped by much faster than last week did.

This morning we were to have our parade which had already been postponed a week, but because of the wet field or something it was delayed or put off for another time. This is the first time we have been dressed in our dress blues and the company really looked sharp.

Last night Dave Wynn, our company commander, took us to an L.D.S. meeting here on the island. A group of about ten meet every other Friday and the meetings are excellent. We sang songs, introduced ourselves and heard two speakers. We are sure going to attend every time. There is a Mr. Cory from Ogden who attends - he is the first counseler to our president, Mr. Wynn.

Our choir, which Fred and I are in, is going to sing in Church tomorrow morning and we have been practicing for the last couple of days pretty diligently. It might be sort of OK.

The classes are really becoming worthwhile. We are surely ~~[illegible]~~

learning to be fine seamen.

We had a test in Aircraft Recognition yesterday in which I got 18 out of 20 planes correct - "A" grade. He flashed 20 planes on the screen - 1/5 of a second for each. It's really fun.

We learned to take apart and put together a .45 pistol in our armory class the other day and we taught facts about .50 calibre machine guns, Tommy guns, .38's.

Rope splicing and knot tying make up our study in Seamanship class and we are promised a signaling class which should start very soon.

My first pay day came the other day and I received 20 bucks - pretty rich boy.

I haven't had my interview for school placement yet but Dick and Morrie are interested in Radar which they put for their 1st choice. Fred put Pharmacy for his.

Mom - your box was sure swell and Dad, your letter was a newsy as ever.

I received a nice letter from Joey but I guess you knew about it - one of those "family memorandums".

Just some scratchings to let you know I'm still going.

Love,

Clay.

P.S. Do you think you could see if my little radio would be worth fixing. Willie has and tell

2 AUGUST

U. S. COAST GUARD

SHIP AHOY,

I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER WRITE AND TELL MY TWO FOSTER PARENTS WHAT THEIR SECOND SALTY SON IS DOING. [illegible] RADIO WATCH ABOARD A TRAINING SHIP ON WHICH WE ARE JUST FINISHING A THREE WEEKS CRUISE UP AND DOWN THE LONG ISLAND SOUND. I AM SITTING IN A ROOM WHICH IS PROBABLY SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN WHICH CLAYT SITS BUT I DONT IMAGINE THIS ONE IS QUITE AS MODERN SEEING AS IT IS A SQUARE RIGGED SAILING SHIP.

THE ACADEMY IS REALLY MARVELOUS. IT IS THE BEST THING I COULD HAVE POSSIBLY GOTTEN. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE RIGHT ON THE BANKS OF THE THAMES RIVER. WE ARE TOLD THAT IT IS THE MOST [illegible] ENGINEERING SCHOOL [illegible]. [illegible] TO GET CLAYT [illegible] COAST GUARD [illegible] SCHOOL [illegible] YEAR.

[illegible] AS SOON AS WE GET BACK FROM THIS CRUISE. WE HAVE JUST BEEN TO NEW YORK.

IT HAS BEEN PRETTY EASY SO FAR BACK HERE BUT THAT IS BECAUSE THE UPPERCLASSMEN ARE ON A CRUISE AND ON LEAVE WHEN THEY COME BACK IT WILL REALY BE TOUGH.

you'll have to pardon this sloppy & jerky letter but

U. S. COAST GUARD

the typewriter I was using was about 100 years old, and I kept trying to take messages in between the lines.

Mother told me that you were just a little late at the station. I sure do appreciate your coming even though I missed you.

Well, I better sign off now,

So long

Les

Pelican

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Wednesday Night
Oct 25

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm afraid this will be a hurried letter as was the last one because I'm finding it a little hard to budget for my letter writing time.

Today was our toughest yet. Our new platoon (2nd Platoon) leader, 3rd Class Petty Officer Pete Gorman, is a drag. All he does is yell and swear. Our Company commander, 1st class petty officer Wynn, is a swell guy. He's tough, but a clean, fine person.

Saturday we will have a big parade. All the companies will compete (marching) for a 48 hour pass. If we ~~[illegible]~~ should win it we could use it in about 3 weeks.

Our first shots come today. We received 2 of them. Now that these shots have started our 21 days begins so we are pretty happy about that.

The other day a Petty Officers called me to the phone and was I embarrassed. It was Adele, Wood, and Dougie. I was polite to them but with 4 Officers standing around me while I talked to Dougie I might have seemed sort of childish to them.

I've been looking up the schools which are offered us but none of them interest me much. A Basic Engineering school was listed but it is not available. Signaling, Radio, Yeoman, Diesel and many others are available but I don't know about them.

Manual of Arms drill and marching are our main daily activities. They marched us a good part of the day today so this is the first free time I've had.

I'll write you a short note like this about every other night.

Love,
Clayt.

P.S. I hope you at home are all feeling as fine as I am.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Monday Night –
Oct. 23

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, here I am – safe, sound and happy. I guess that I might as well tell you the whole story to start with. (for you, Dad)

We arrived Saturday afternoon about five o'clock and made our way to this Govt. Island. We were immediately issued our bedding and assigned our bunks. We are all right together which makes it very nice. We then went to chow and ~~were up at 6:00 the in~~ then went to a U. S. O. show here Sat. Night. In bed at 9:30 and up at 6:00 Sun. Morning. After breakfast ~~went~~ went to a Protestant Church meeting (I sent you the folder) which was nice. Sundays are always a day for play here so we went to the playground and played volleyball, baseball, football etc.

Monday (today) was the "big" day. We arose at the usual 6:00 and after chow we were given the rest of our

gear. Get this equipment:
1 pair of boots, 1 nice pr. of black oxfords (nice ones), 1 pr. of gym shoes., 7 pr. socks, 1 pr of leggins (which we wear every day), 2 suits of blue denim, "T" shirts, light blue short sleeves (for work), 4 hats, sweater 1 coat, 1 rain coat, brushes, shaving equipment, swim suit, and a million other things I can't remember. The uniforms we were issued were: 1 set of whites, 2 undresses ~~navy~~ blues (they dont have the white decoration on them), 1 dress blues. We returned to our barracks which are brand new and very clean and nice, and put our gear in our lockers. For daily work we wear our white hats, light blue short sleeved shirts, and blue denim pants with leggins and black oxfords. After lunch we marched for about 4 hours and then returned to get shaved by the barber. We don't look too handsome right at the present, but ~~it's~~ really all right.

The food here is really O.K. they say its about the best there is.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

There are about 100 men to a company and one platoon of 50 men had been formed when we arrived. We nearly completed the 2nd platoon so were ready to roll.

We have shots and dentist work for us in the near future, probably tomorrow.

I talked to Adele, Wood, and Dougie on the phone the other day but I guess I won't be able to see them for at least a month because we are unable to leave the island for that length of time. We always march everywhere we go and are unable to go to a phone or the canteen or to shows without being called for them.

The only thing I want you to send in your letter are Dick's, Doug's and Adele's addresses, if you would please

All tellue I'm really satisfied with the whole set up so don't worry about me at all.

I'll keep writing often to keep you totally informed.

Love,

Clayt

P.S. The weather is absolutely perfect. I've got more to tell you but I have to take a shower and be in bed by 9:30.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE — F. C. Atkinson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

CHAPLAIN: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;

CONGREGATION: Knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

CHAPLAIN: For every one that asketh receiveth.

CONGREGATION: And he that seeketh findeth;

CHAPLAIN: And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

*INVOCATION . . . . . Chaplain

*HYMN "America The Beautiful" #122

*LORD'S PRAYER . . . . . Congregation

RESPONSIVE READING 30-27

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON " Acts - 27 " Chaplain

*DOXOLOGY . . . . . p 5

ORGAN MEDITATION . . . . . F. C. Atkinson

MORNING PRAYER . . . . . Chaplain

*HYMN "Jesus, Saviour Pilot Me" #103

SERMON . . . . . Chaplain

ANTHEM . . . . . Quartet

*NAVY HYMN . . . . . #128

*BENEDICTION . . . . . Chaplain

*CHORAL BENEDICTION . . . . . Quartet

ORGAN POSTLUDE . . . . . F. C. Atkinson

(* Indicates Congregation standing)

- A N N O U N C E M E N T S -

Those who feel they could contribute to the music for Worship Service, see Christy in the Chaplain's office.

* * *

Today is Navy Day Sunday. Navy Day has been officially designated as October 27.

****

"IF YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN NOR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH BUT ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHRISTIAN AND A MEMBER OF SOME CHURCH SPEAK TO THE CHAPLAIN AFTER THE SERVICE."

* * *

" AS HE WALKED WITH US "

Calm, strong, and gentle Man of Galilee,
  Whose heart by every human voice is stirred;
  By whom are plaintive cries of creatures heard;
Whose eye escapes no tracery of tree,
Or modest wayside flower; alert to see
  The fantasy of cloud, the flight of bird;
  Whose ear can catch the faintest note and word
Of wind and stream, and distant western sea;
When I am treading on the open space,
  Or threading slowly through the crowded marts,
Skilled Craftsman of the woods and market place,
  Companion of all life and human hearts,
I crave, Thou unseen, understanding Guide,
To find Thee, silent, walking by my side.

- Harry Webb Farrington.

Notes to Home:

Dear Folks,

No place to write and no stationary to write on until tommorow. So just a note to tell you I'm feeling swell and I really love it here. A letter follows with details. Love, Clayt.

From Clayton R. Williams A.S. (R) 601-475

U.S.C.G. Trng. Station
Co. #9B3 Barracks #7
~~Coast Guard Base~~, Gov't Isle
Alameda, California

To Gilbert W. Williams
489 "B" St.
Salt Lake City, (3)
Utah

Chaplain is Available
at all times.
Office maintained in Room 112
Base Administration Bldg.
If office is closed - inquire in Library.

If you haven't a New Testament,
your Chaplain has one for you.

Worship Music today by:
Jay Barbeau QM 2c of Oakland, California
Gordon Barstow Cox. of San Diego, California
Carl Larsen Jr. Y 2c of Council Bluffs, Iowa
Eugene Christy of Kansas City, Missouri
Francis Atkinson of Los Angeles, California

DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE
22 October 1944
0900

"Where are you going, (Coast Guardsman)?
To lift today above the past;
To make tomorrow sure and fast;
To nail God's colors to the mast?
Then God go with you, (Coast Guardsman)."
(Adapted) - John Oxenham

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
GOVERNMENT ISLAND
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

"Enter to WORSHIP--Leave to SERVE"

CHAPLAIN
William A. Taylor

Director of Music
Eugene W. Christy
Sp. (W) 3c

Organist
Francis C. Atkinson
BM 1c

" PROTESTANT SERVICE FOR ALL WHO WISH TO ATTEND "

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Wednesday Night
October 13

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well, we've had quite a trip, but first I must thank for the wonderful time at the station. I really can't thank you enough though, because it was too perfect. To see everybody certainly made us all feel good. Thanks a million.

Now for the trip. Our next big stop after L.L. was Chicago. It certainly is a swell town. We went to the Hotel Sherman to hear Tommy Dorsey - very good. Afterwards we slept at the Service Men's Center - thirteen stories of free entertainment, free showers and bunks, free canteen. It is the best place for servicemen in the country. We made a short stop in Philadelphia so I talked on the phone to Dick and Mare. They seemed fine and asked me to call them again soon.

After five dirty days we were here. We had showered only once - in Chicago so it

felt very good to be settled again. Our set up here looks pretty fine - a fair hotel with four students to a room. I got in with three nice fellows, Fred and Morrie are together, and Buck is in another room. The food is wonderful - real plates, and better serving and eating conditions. Spars eat the same food in the same mess hall which makes it nicer. Each room has its own head (bathroom) which is also nice. We're going to start classwork Monday, I believe. The whole set up really pleases us. Liberties on Wednesday evening and every weekend with New York fairly close.

As for this Christmas deal - well, I don't really need anything, but a pair of nail scissors or something. Any extra things would have to be sent home, but your small treat at the station took the place of Christmas for me this year.

This is an awfully poor attempt for a letter so I'll write you again, soon.

Love, Clayt.

P.S. Have you heard anything from or about Doug, yet.

P.P.S. Thanks again for candy, magazines, fruit. It was swell.

my address is:
C.R. Williams A.S.(R) 601-475
U.S.C.G. Trng. Station Class #57
138 South Virginia Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey

NRB—46838—16 Feb 45—5M. sets of 2

U. S. S._____

Date_____

Heading:

From:

Action:

Info:

TEXT

THE BOUTS AND HE DRESSED FOR THE BASKETBALL GAME WHICH FOLLOWED. HE WORKED IT SO I COULD SIT WITH HIM ON THE BENCH (HE DIDNTT GET IN THE GAME) AND WE WATCHED A PRETTY GOOD BALL GAME.....BUT, THE COAST GUARD LOST 36 TO 31. THE NEXT DAY(SUNDAY AND GUESS WHO'S BIRTHDAY) REX AND I WENT TO HIS CHURCH MEETING. LATER ON WE HAD LUNCH AND HE SHOWED ME AROUND THE SCHOOL, AND THAT EVENING A MOVIE. YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW SWELL IT WAS TO SEE AND TALK TO HIM, AND HE SURE LOOKED GREAT. WELL, HE HAD TO REPORT BACK TO THE SCHOOL SO I GOT ON A TRAIN AND RETURNED TO THE SHIP THAT NIGHT. I THINK HE LIKES IT FAIRLY WELL THERE, BUT I CAN SEE THE MANY THINGS THAT WOULD GRIPE HIM. HE WAS ABLE TO GET A GOOD BARGAIN ON A SLIDE RULE THROUGH HIS CANTEEN SO HE GOT ONE FOR ME,WITH AN INSTRUCTION BOOK. THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE A SWELL OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO LEARN HOW TO USE IT. HE'LL PROBABLY BE SHOT AT DAWN FOR "FRATERNIZING" WITH ENLISTED MEN...THAT'S AGAINST THEIR RULES THERE.

THERE IS ALOT OF WELDING GOING ON ON THE SHIP RIGHT NOW SO MY DUTIES DURING THE DAY HAVE ME STANDING WHAT THEY CALL FIRE WATCHES JUST WATCHING THE WELDERS TO SEE THAT THEY DON'T START FIRES WITH THEIR TORCHES.....VERY COLD AND UNINTERESTING.

WE'RE SCHEDULED TO PULL OUT FOR STATION THREE VIA ARGENTIA ON THE FIFTH OF FEBRUARY. I'LL CALL YOU BEFORE THAT TIME, YOU NAME THE DATE AND HOUR. ANY TIME BEFORE THE THIRD WILL BE SWELL FOR ME.

[redacted]

ERROR

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE UP FOR TONIGHT, SO, SO LONG. MY LEAVE WAS SURE PERFECT AND I REALLY APPRECIATE EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE AT HOME DID FOR ME. THANKS A MILLION TO ALL OF YOU.

LOVE,

Clayt.

PS - SORRY ABOUT THE DE SOTO.

Operator's Record: 2

Auth.:

FLAG	CAPT	EXEC	COMM	ENG	SUPP	ORD	OOD	

Release

Time 210815

2 DECEMBER 1945
ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

ALL FUELED UP, "STORES" LOADED, WE'RE READY TO SHOVE OFF. TOMORROW EARLY WE'LL BE GONE.

THE WEATHER HAS BEEN RATHER POOR UP HERE LATELY, AND IT HAS BEEN THE SAME IN BOSTON, SO WE HAVEN'T HAD A MAIL PLANE FROM THE STATES FOR ABOUT A WEEK OR MORE, AND NO MAIL HAS GONE OUT. A PLANE IS EXPECTED IN TONIGHT. I HOPE IT GETS HERE. THE LAST LETTER I RECEIVED FROM YOU WAS YOURS OF THE 18TH.

NOTHING OF MUCH INTEREST HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE LATELY. WE'VE HAD A BASKETBALL GAME NEARLY EVERY NIGHT, FINISHING OUR SEASON WITH A VICTORY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. OUR SEASON RECORD: 9 WINS AND ONE LOSS. IN THE GAME LAST NIGHT WE DEFEATED THE TEAM WHICH GAVE US OUR ONE LOSS.

FLASH !! ..... I JUST RECEIVED A LETTER AND SOME CLIPPINGS FROM YOU, SO A BRIEF PAUSE WHILE I READ THEM, AND THEN I'LL CONTINUE.

YOUR LETTER WAS VERY NICE, AND THANKS VERY MUCH FOR THE HUNDRED DOLLAR BOND. IT IS A PERFECT PRESENT. I'M SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO GET A CALL THROUGH TO YOU, BUT IT WON'T BE SO VERY LONG BEFORE WE ARE BACK IN THE STATES, AND MAYBE A LEAVE. THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING ME OUT BY SENDING THE FLOWERS TO MARY.

ABOUT THOSE PICTURES YOU RECEIVED.....A FELLOW ON THE SHIP HERE TOOK ALOT OF SNAPSHOTS SOME OF WHICH ARE NOT SO INTERESTING BUT I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A SET, SO WE HAD THE DEVELOPERS SEND THEM DIRECTLY HOME.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST LETTER YOU'LL RECEIVE FROM ME UNTIL ABOUT THE 10TH OF JANUARY, I IMAGINE. WE'LL BE BACK HERE THE 3RD OF JAN.

THE LAST FEW NIGHTS I'VE BEEN BUSY OVER AT THE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOP MAKING CHRISTMAS CARDS WHICH YOU WILL SEE SOON. I WASN'T TOO SURE OF DOUG'S ADDRESS, AND JUST NOW YOU SAID IN YOUR LETTER SOMETHING ABOUT A CHANGE OF HIS ADDRESS, BUT I HOPE HE GETS MY CARD. WOULD YOU SEND ME HIS ADDRESS?

SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS, IT'S GOING TO BE RATHER HARD FOR ME TO DO MUCH IN THE WAY OF GIFTS THIS YEAR. I'LL ENCLOSE IN THIS LETTER A $30 MONEY ORDER, AND ASK YOU TO USE IT AS YOU SEE FIT. I'M SORRY BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN DO.

ONE MORE CHRISTMAS AWAY FROM HOME, BUT I REALLY THINK IT WILL BE THE LAST ONE. I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ADELE SAYING

24 NOVEMBER 1945
SATURDAY AFTERNOON

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

ON THANKSGIVING DAY I RECEIVED YOUR LATEST LETTER(WRITTEN ON THE 18TH) AND TWO BUNCHES OF MAGAZINES WHICH WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, NOT ONLY BY ME, BUT BY ALL OF THE SHIP'S CREW. THANKS ALOT.

YOU DIDN'T MENTION ANY PLANS THAT YOU HAD FOR THANKSGIVING DAY, BUT I IMAGINE YOU WENT TO THE FOOTBALL GAME(AND I HOPE THE "U" DID AS WELL AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING), AND MAYBE "OUT" SOMEWHERE TO DINNER, AND THEN TO GRANDMA'S. MY DAY CONSISTED OF.... A VERY LATE ARISING, ABOUT ELEVEN O'CLOCK, A ONE O'CLOCK TURKEY DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS(BUT, NOT ENOUGH TURKEY), A MOVIE ABOARD SHIP ABOUT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON, AND AT SIX-THIRTY, A BASKETBALL GAME IN THE GYM HERE ON THE BASE. SO, I HAD QUITE A FULL DAY. AND I HIT THE "SACK" EARLY, AND THOUGHT OF ALL OF THE THINGS I HAD TO BE THANKFUL FOR. AND I SAID TO MYSELF, "YOU'RE QUITE THE FORTUNATE PERSON" AND I REALIZE I AM.

TO GET BACK TO THIS BASKETBALL TEAM WE HAVE, WHICH I ONCE TOLD YOU ABOUT. I'LL HAVE TO BRAG A LITTLE AND TELL YOU THAT WE REALLY HAVE A PRETTY "HOT" OUTFIT. UP TO DATE WE HAVE PLAYED ALL SEVEN OF THE TEAMS ON THE BASE HERE, AND BEAT THEM ALL. OUR RECORD: WON 7, LOST 0. LAST NIGHT WE PLAYED THE TEAM WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE TOPS ON THE BASE AND WE JUST DID MAKE IT A VICTORY, BY ONE POINT. IT'S ALOT OF FUN TO GO OVER EVERY NIGHT AND WORK OUT WITH THE GANG.

I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH ABOUT DOUG LATELY. WHAT DOES HE THINK HIS CHANCES ARE ON A SPEEDY DISCHARGE? HOW ABOUT THIS LOWERING OF POINTS?

OUR SCHEDULE IS UNCHANGED, AND THAT MEANS WE'LL LEAVE HERE EITHER THE 2ND OR 3RD OF DECEMBER, RETURNING HERE PROBABLY ABOUT THE 2ND OF JANUARY.

MOM, WHAT EVERY YOU THINK BEST WILL SUIT ME FINE AS TO THE CHOICE OF A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARY. I JUST DON'TT KNOW ABOUT THE CUP AND SAUCER IDEA, WHETHER IT SEEMS TO OLD OR NOT. WHAT EVER YOU THINK IS O.K. WITH ME.

I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT ALL FOR NOW. I'LL WRITE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. I RECEIVED A WONDERFUL LETTER FROM AUNT HELEN, AND A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM ALL OF THE "REX W.'S".

LOVE,

Clayt.

P.S. DAD, WHERE DO YOU GET THIS "CLIX" STUFF? NO DOUBT FROM DOUG.

P.S. My 2nd Class Radioman test has been postponed until they give another follow a boost in rank so he is entitled to. give the test. They give rates to anyone the day o.

87-170
171
86

29 January 1946

Dear Mom and Dad,

I have the duty tonight, and, having just finished typing up some late messages, I decided to knock out a fast letter to you while I am able to use this typewriter.

Mom, your three boxes arrived yesterday in perfect condition and they sure taste wonderful. They really hit the spot, thanks a million.

Instead of pulling out of Boston on the fifth as I told you in my last letter, our orders have been changed telling us to be ready for sailing on the sixteenth. The Navy Yard CO requested that we be held here until that time as they needed several extra days to complete repairs. That's a good break for us, I think, as it may change our schedule. (We were to go to Station #3, then Iceland, then Station #2). I haven't received any mail from you, so I don't know if you have made any date for me to phone you, but any time before the fifteenth would be swell with me.

I talked with Rex last Sunday night (Couldn't reach him on his birthday). His basketball squad is playing a game in the Boston Garden on the 14th and he said he would "swish 'em in" this week and next so that he would be chosen to make the trip. He also said he has a short leave the first part of April and that we might work it so that we could get together, which would be swell.

I'm anxious to hear from you and to hear any more news about Doug. If he pulls into either New York or Boston and wires you, be sure to wire me, because I'm pretty sure I could get at least a forty-eight hour liberty to see him. How are the house hunters getting along? I hope they've found something to their liking.

I like Boston much better than I used to, the weather is improving and I'm having some good times on liberty.

That's about all for tonight. Thanks again, Mom, for the boxes.

Love,

Sgt.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAVPERS-693 (REV.

DATE J[illegible]2 1945

NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)	RANK OR RATING	SERVICE NO.
WILLIAMS, CLAYTON RAY	RM 3/C	601 475

NEW SHIP OR STATION

1ST NAVAL DISTRICT

NEW COMPANY GROUP OR OTHER ORGANIZATION

1400 CUSTOM HOUSE, BOSTON (9), MASS.

NEW POST OFFICE ADDRESS

FFT COMMANDER TASK FORCE 24

SIGNATURE Clayton R. Williams

COMMANDING OFFICER [illegible]

NOTE:—PUBLISHERS AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS NEED THE OLD ADDRESS FOR CORRECT PROCESSING.

OLD ADDRESS WAS

U. S. COAST GUARD TRAINING STATION

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

PUBLICATION KEY NO. (IF AVAILABLE)

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF PO[illegible]GE, $300

ATIC
JUN 7
9 PM
1945
N. J.

G. W. WILLIAMS
489 "B" STREET
SALT LAKE CITY,
UTAH

6838—16 Feb 45—5M. sets of 2

U. S. S. EUGENE

Date 21 JANUARY 1945

Only paper I could find.

Heading:

From: CRW

Action: MR. AND MRS. GWW

Info: MR. AND MRS. WRW & RDW; MR. AND MRS. RCW & FAMILY

TEXT

DEAR MOM AND DAD,

BACK ON THE "TUB".....WHAT FILTH! A DRY DOCK IS THE WORST INVENTION YET. HOSES RUNNING ALL OVER THE SHIP, COLD, WALK A HALF-A-BLOCK TO.....WELL, IT'S JUST AS IF WE LIVED ON "Q" STREET. ANYWAY, IT SURE AIN'T MUCH LIKE HOME.

AND THE WEATHER IN BOSTON ISN'T MUCH LIKE THAT AT HOME EITHER. NIGHT BEFORE LAST FOUR PEOPLE COLLAPSED ON THE STREET AND DIED OF THE COLD, THREE BELOW AND WORSE. BUT ALL THIS IS JUST THE DARKER SIDE OF LIFE, REALLY I'VE HAD SOME NICE TIMES.

I'LL START WITH THE PLANE TRIP WHICH WAS 4.0. THE NIGHT I LEFT SALT LAKE WAS A PERFECT ONE FOR FLYING. I HAD A WINDOW SEAT AND THE VIEW OF THE CITY REALLY WAS BEAUTIFUL. THE MOON WAS VERY BRIGHT AND WHAT A SIGHT THAT MADE AS WE SKIMMED OVER THE SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS. AFTER SLEEPING MOST OF THE NIGHT I FELT PRETTY GOOD WHEN WE PULLED INTO CHICAGO AND WAS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF FLYING THE REMAINING DISTANCE IF POSSIBLE. I WAS TURNED DOWN BY UNITED, BUT THEY TOOK MY NAME AND CALLED ME A FEW MINUTES LATER TELLING ME THEY COULD GET ME ON THE "STRATOLINER" WHICH WAS PULLING OUT IN A FEW MINUTES. IT FLYS NON-STOP TO NEW YORK IN A LITTLE OVER THREE HOURS, EXTRA FARE, AND PLENTY RITZY. I HOPPED ABOARD AND WE WERE IN THE BIG CITY IN NO TIME. SO, AFTER TWO VERY UN-EXCITING NIGHTS THERE I BOARDED ANOTHER PLANE AND ARRIVED IN BOSTON IN PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE THE SHIP BEFORE MY LEAVE RAN OUT. AS YOU CAN SEE I'M REALLY SOLD ON THIS PLANE TRAVEL. OH, AND BY THE WAY DAD, I WAS ABLE TO REDEEM MY CHICAGO TO BOSTON RAILWAY TICKET FOR IT'S TRUE VALUE. I WAS IN CHICAGO SUCH A SHORT TIME I DIDN'T PHONE ANYONE.

FRIDAY NIGHT, THE 18TH, I PHONED REX TELLING HIM THAT I HAD PUT IN FOR A 48 HOUR LIBERTY AND THAT I WOULD PROBABLY GET IT..... AND I DID. SO THE NEXT MORNING I HOPPED ABOARD A TRAIN AND WAS IN NEW LONDON BY ONE O'CLOCK, HAD A HOTEL ROOM BY ONE-FIFTEEN, AND MET REX AT ONE -THIRTY. THAT NIGHT THE ACADEMY HAD A GAME WITH HOLY CROSS AND A PRELIMINARY EVENT OF BOXING WITH VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY. WE WATCHED

Operator's Record:

FLAG	CAPT	EXEC	COMM	ENG	SUPP	ORD	OOD	

Auth.:

Release

Time